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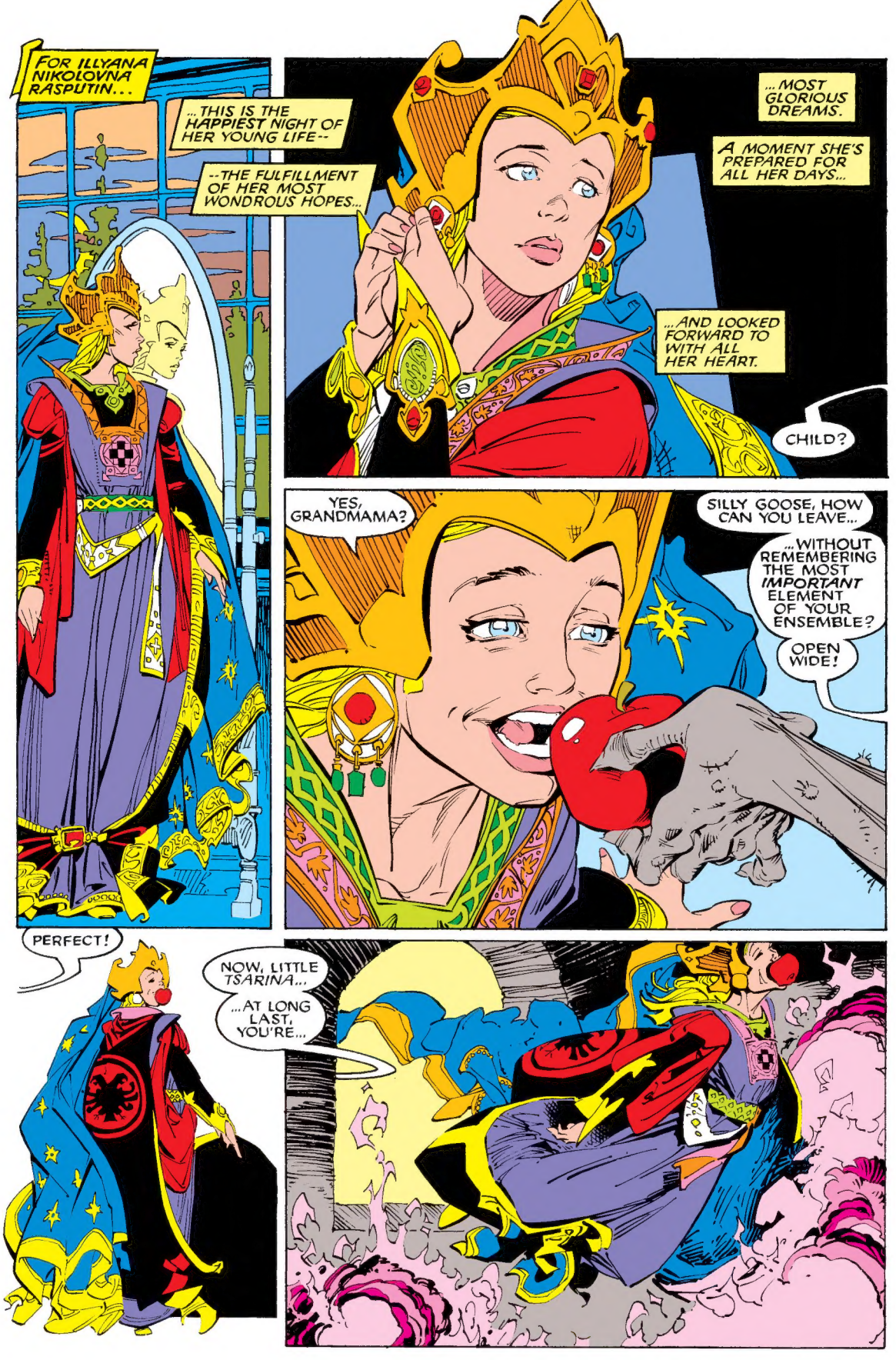
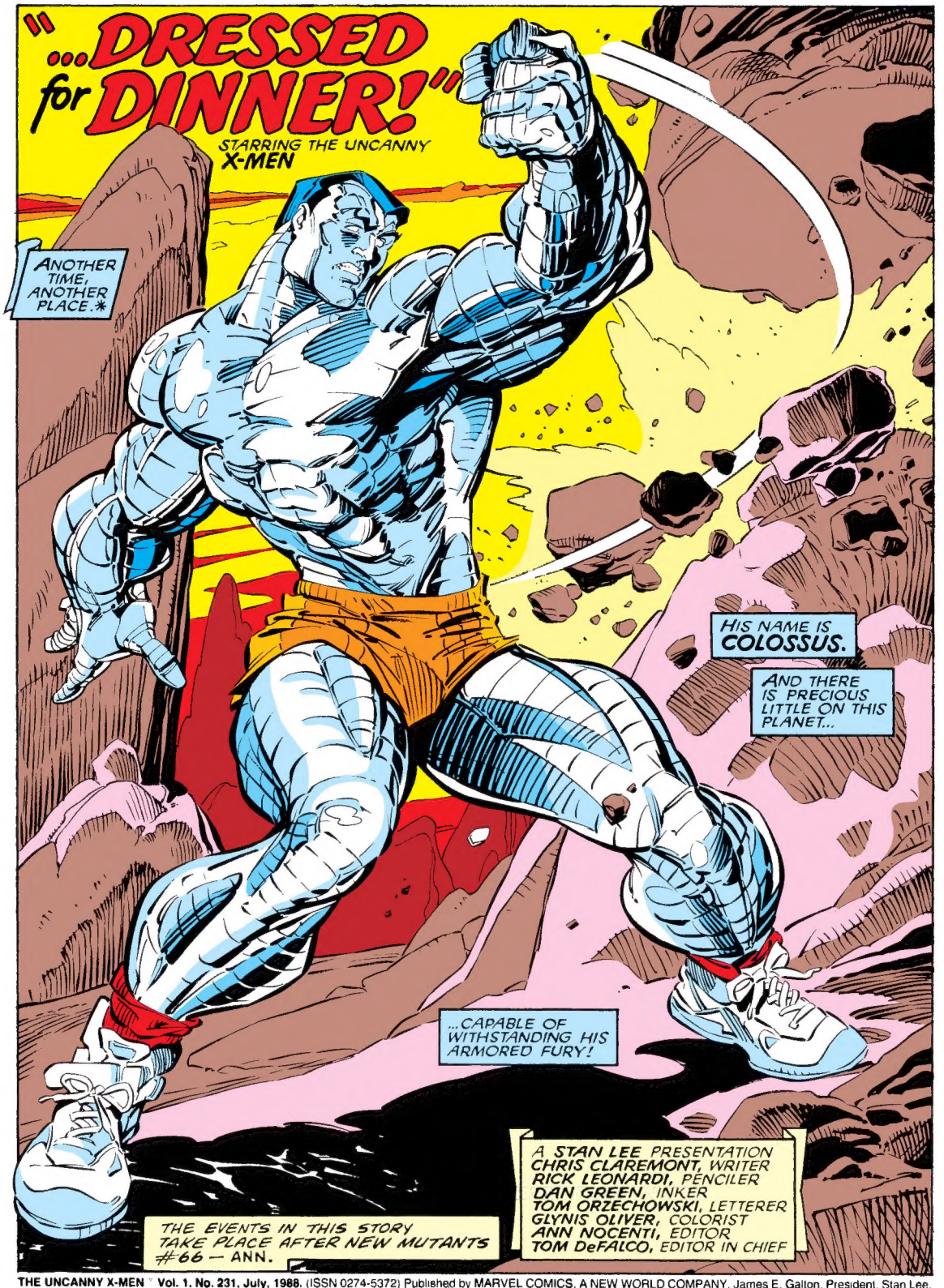
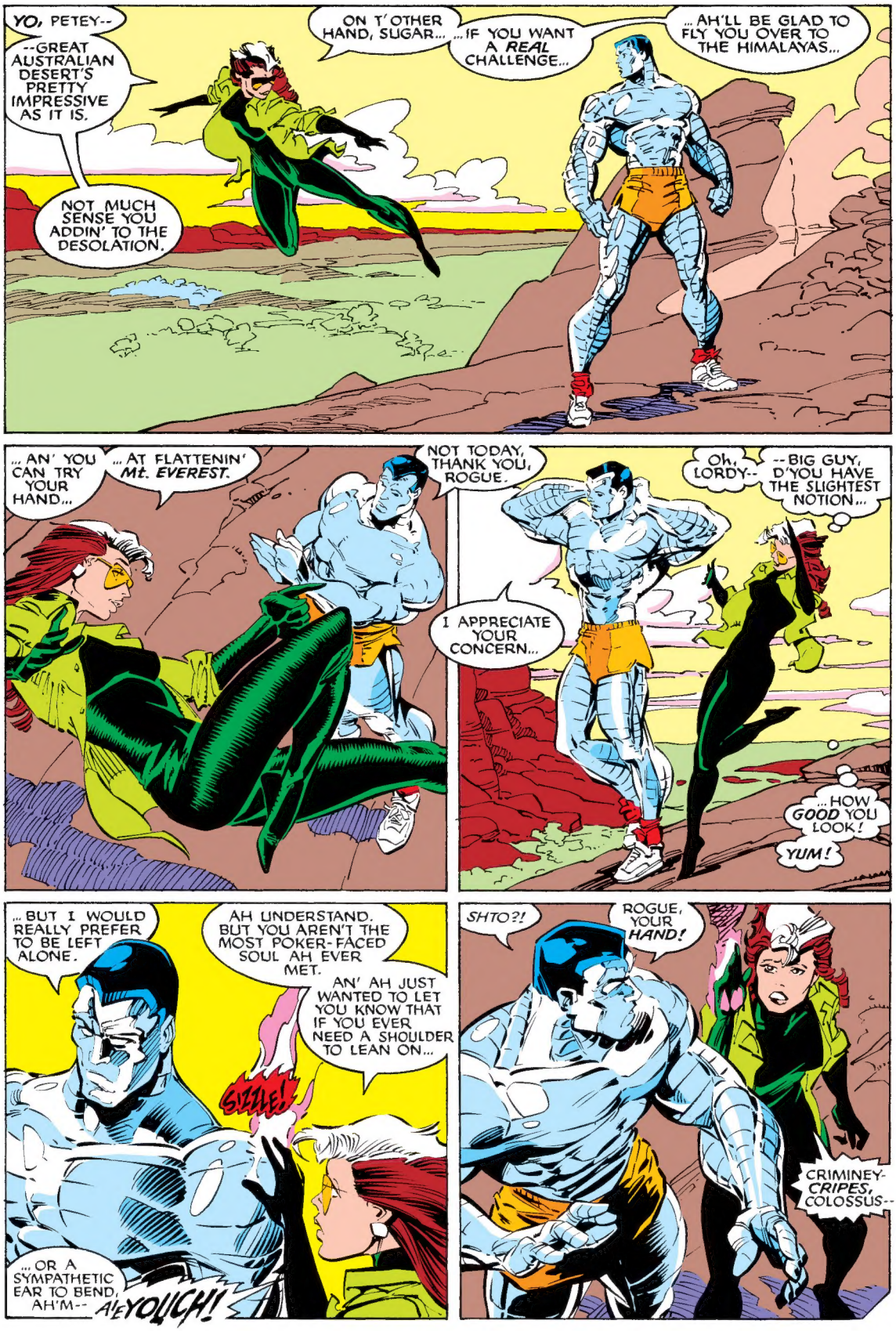
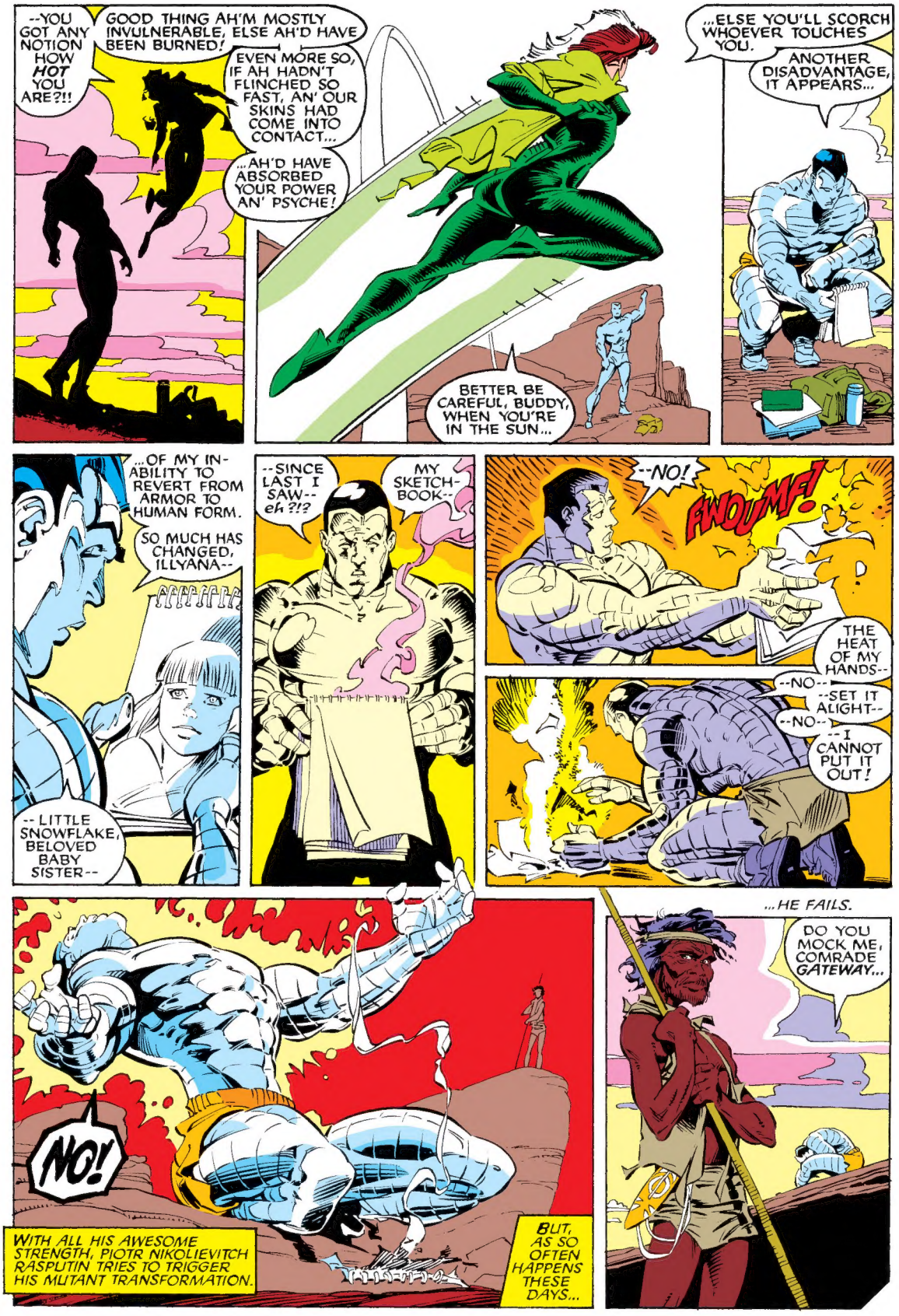

FOR ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA RASPUTIN...
...THIS IS THE HAPPIEST NIGHT OF HER YOUNG LIFE--
--THE FULFILLMENT OF HER MOST WONDROUS HOPES...
...MOST GLORIOUS DREAMS.
A MOMENT SHE'S PREPARED FOR ALL HER DAYS...
...AND LOOKED FORWARD TO WITH ALL HER HEART.
CHILD?
YES, GRANDMAMA?
SILLY GOOSE, HOW CAN YOU LEAVE...
...WITHOUT REMEMBERING THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF YOUR ENSEMBLE?
OPEN WIDE!
PERFECT!
NOW, LITTLE TSARINA...
...AT LONG LAST, YOU'RE...

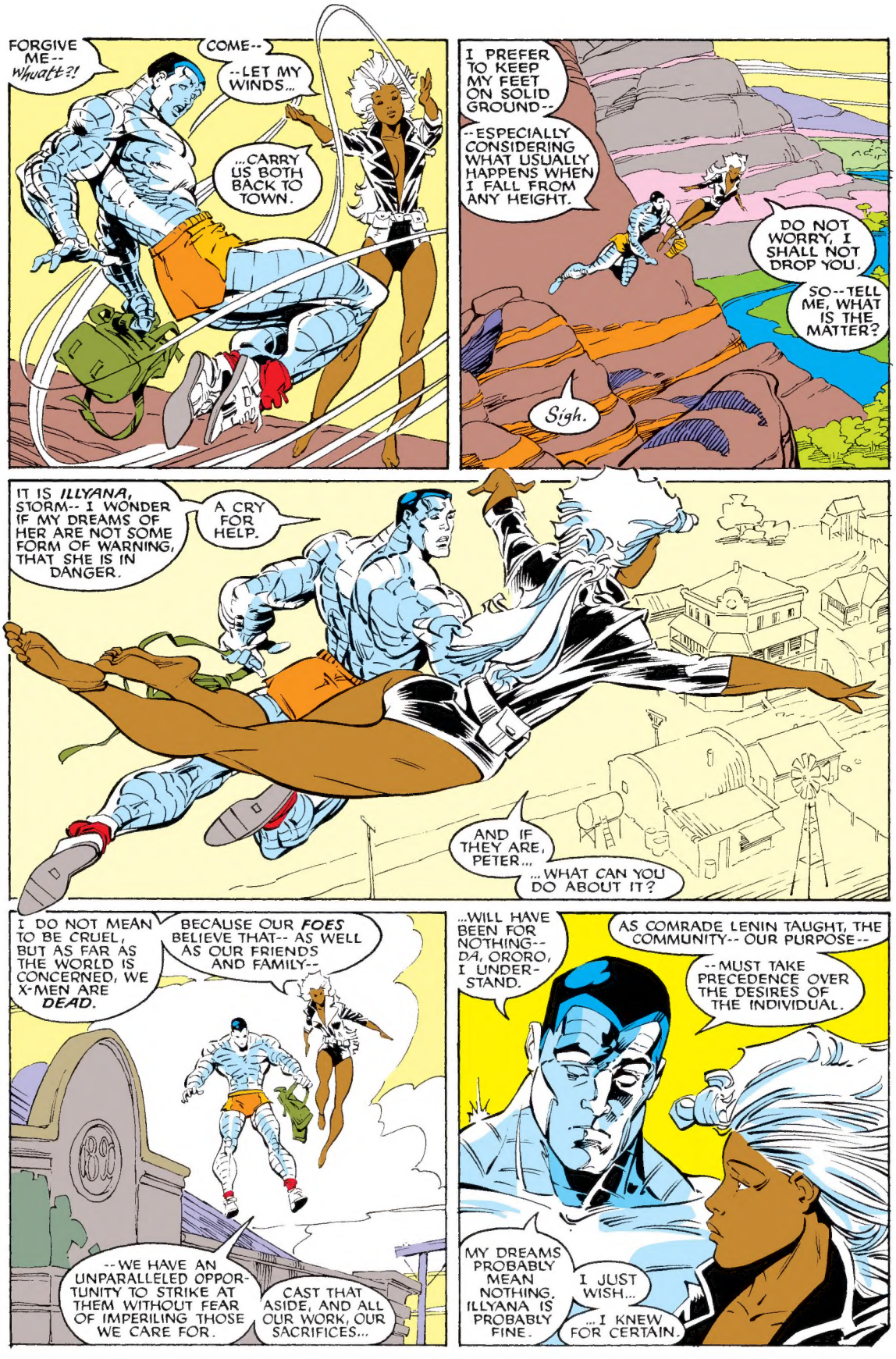


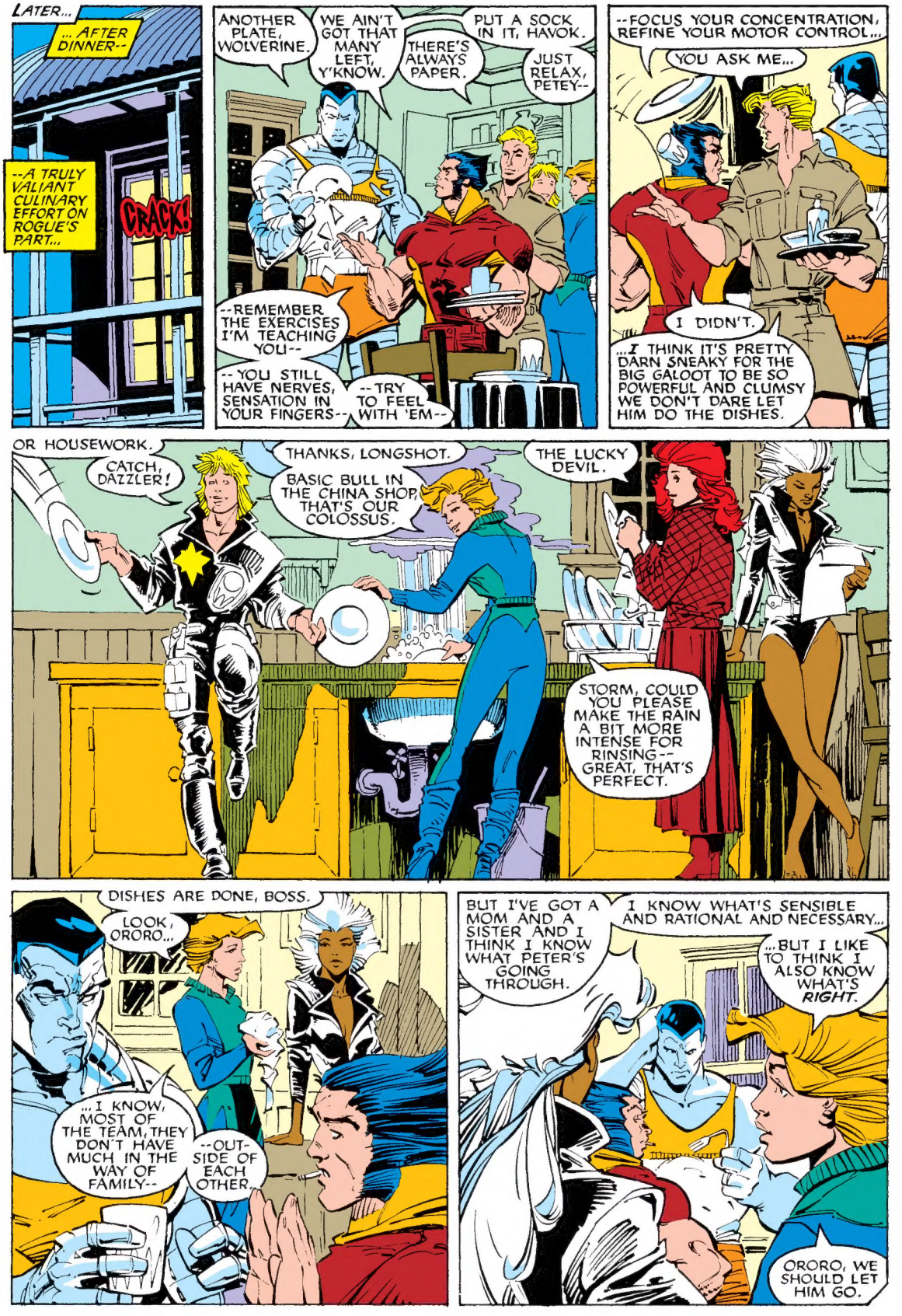
THE UNCANNY X-MEN ™ **Vol. 1, No. 231, July, 1988.** (ISSN 0274-5372) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.00 per copy in the U.S. and $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate $12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE UNCANNY X-MEN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

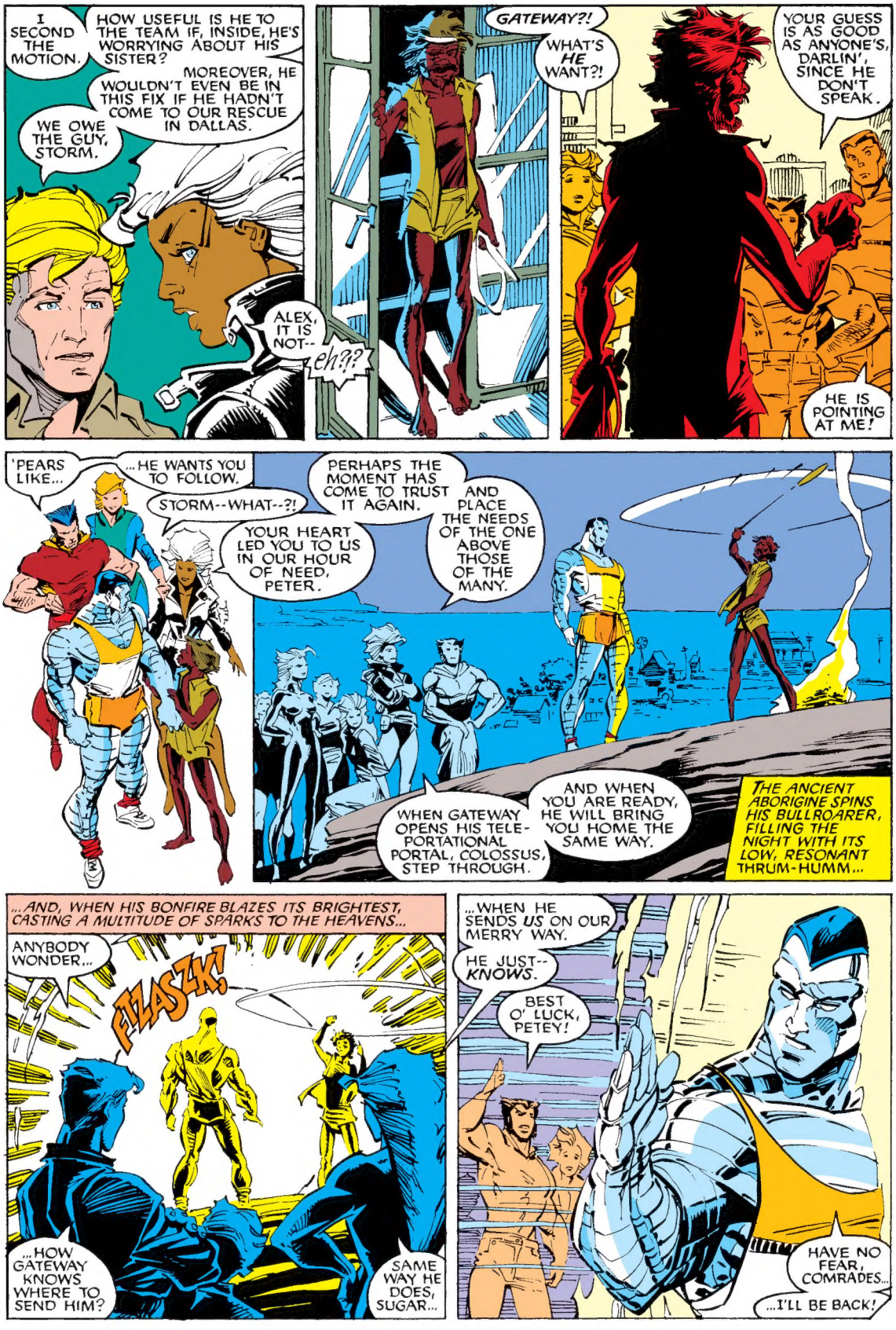

YO, PETEY--
--GREAT AUSTRALIAN DESERT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE AS IT IS.
NOT MUCH SENSE YOU ADDIN' TO THE DESOLATION.
ON T' OTHER HAND, SUGAR...
...IF YOU WANT A REAL CHALLENGE...
...AH'LL BE GLAD TO FLY YOU OVER TO THE HIMALAYAS...
...AN' YOU CAN TRY YOUR HAND...
...AT FLATTENIN' Mt. EVEREST.
NOT TODAY, THANK YOU, ROGUE.
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN...
Oh, LORDY--
--BIG GUY, D'YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST NOTION...
...HOW GOOD YOU LOOK!
YUM!
...BUT I WOULD REALLY PREFER TO BE LEFT ALONE.
AH UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU AREN'T THE MOST POKER-FACED SOUL AH EVER MET.
AN' AH JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU EVER NEED A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON...
SIZZLE!
...OR A SYMPATHETIC EAR TO BEND, AH'M--
A'EYOUCH!
SHTO?!
ROGUE, YOUR HAND!
CRIMINEY-CRIPES, COLOSSUS--

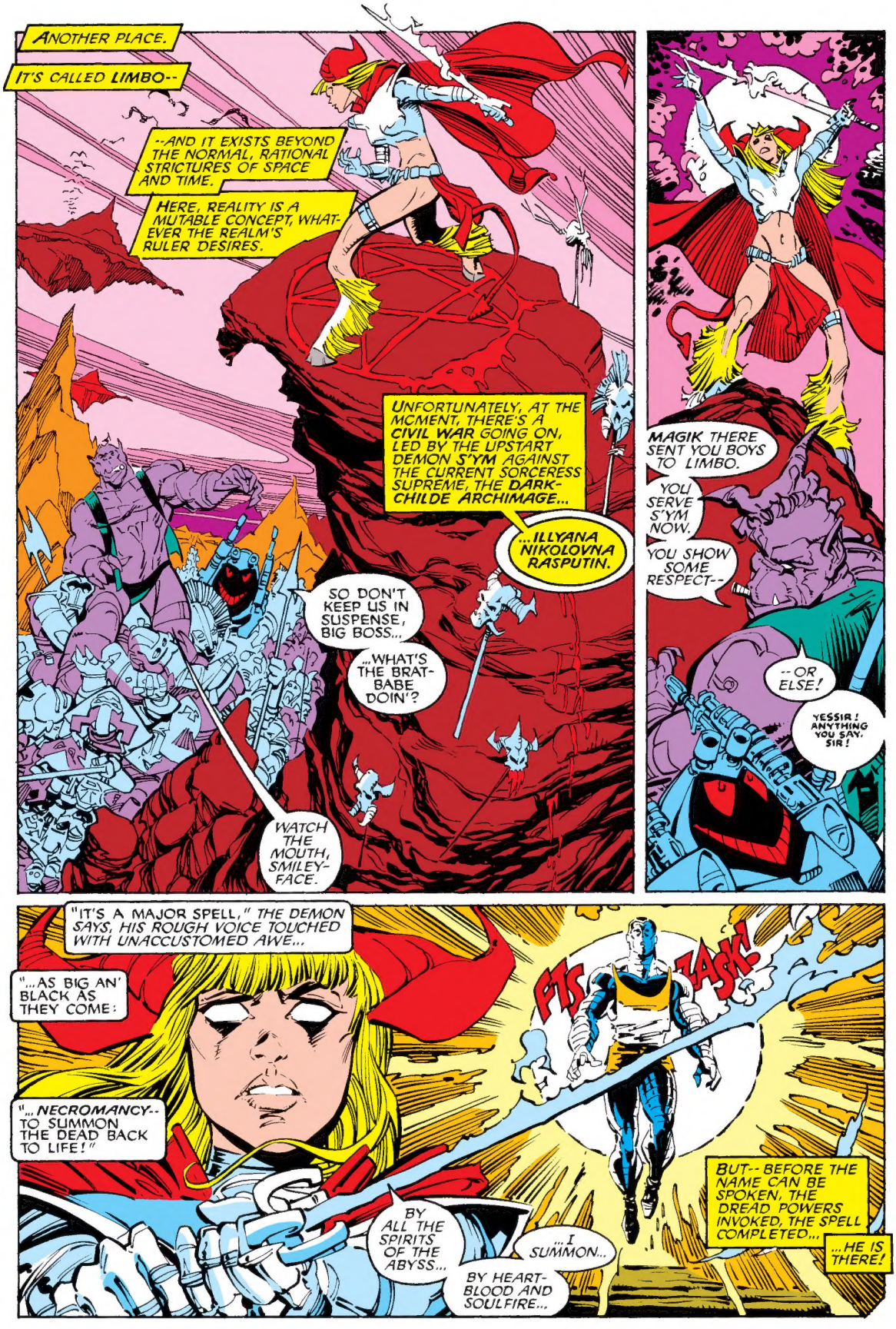

--YOU GOT ANY NOTION HOW HOT YOU ARE?!!
GOOD THING AH'M MOSTLY INVULNERABLE, ELSE AH'D HAVE BEEN BURNED!
EVEN MORE SO, IF AH HADN'T FLINCHED SO FAST, AN' OUR SKINS HAD COME INTO CONTACT...
...AH'D HAVE ABSORBED YOUR POWER AN' PSYCHE!
BETTER BE CAREFUL, BUDDY, WHEN YOU'RE IN THE SUN...
...ELSE YOU'LL SCORCH WHOEVER TOUCHES YOU.
ANOTHER DISADVANTAGE, IT APPEARS...
...OF MY INABILITY TO REVERT FROM ARMOR TO HUMAN FORM.
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED, ILLYANA--
-- LITTLE SNOWFLAKE, BELOVED BABY SISTER--
--SINCE LAST I SAW-- eh?!?
MY SKETCH-BOOK--
--NO!
FWOUMF!
THE HEAT OF MY HANDS--
--NO--
--SET IT ALIGHT--
--NO--
--I CANNOT PUT IT OUT!
NO!
WITH ALL HIS AWESOME STRENGTH, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN TRIES TO TRIGGER HIS MUTANT TRANSFORMATION.
BUT, AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS THESE DAYS...
...HE FAILS.
DO YOU MOCK ME, COMRADE GATEWAY...

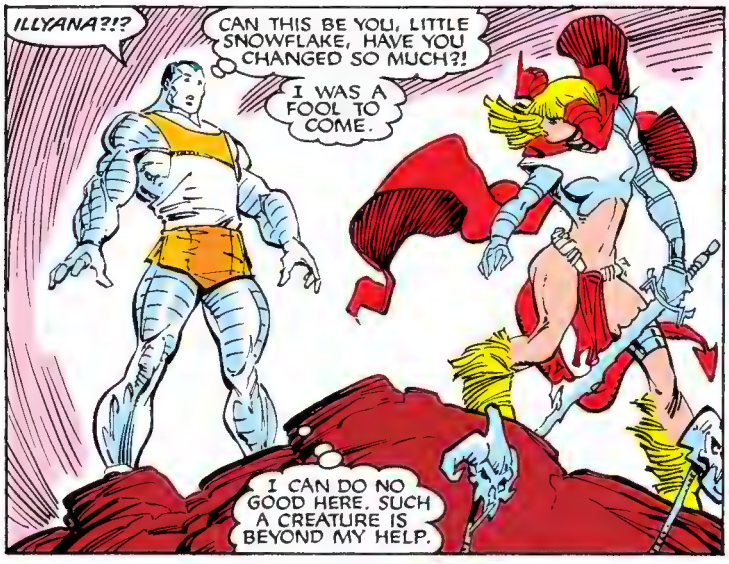
...WITH YOUR SILENT STARE?
SMALL WONDER. NO LONGER AM I A MAN OF FLESH AND BLOOD...
...BUT OF LIVING STEEL.
!
CLOUDS, BLOCKING THE SUN--
-- AND NOW--
--RAIN!?!
HSSSFSS
SLFSSS
STORM?!
THIS IS YOUR DOING?
YOU LOOKED AS THOUGH YOU COULD USE A COOLING SHOWER... ... SO I MADE ONE FOR YOU.
SPACEEBA, ORORO. I AM GRATEFUL.
I HAD NOT REALIZED HOW HOT I'D BECOME.
YOU ARE FAR STRONGER AND TOUGHER THAN YOU WERE, PETER-- A TRUE COLOSSUS--
--BUT THOSE NEW ASSETS CARRY WITH THEM THEIR OWN SPECIAL LIABILITIES.
SO I AM LEARNING...
...THE HARD WAY.
IS THAT ALL THAT TROUBLES YOU?
WHY DO YOU ASK? HAS PSYLOCKE READ MY THOUGHTS AND TOLD THEM TO YOU?!
SHAME, PETER! BETSY WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING, SHE RESPECTS OTHERS' PRIVACY FAR TOO MUCH.
I DO NOT NEED TO BE A TELEPATH TO KNOW WHEN A DEAR FRIEND IS IN PAIN.


FORGIVE ME-- Whuat?!
COME--
--LET MY WINDS...
...CARRY US BOTH BACK TO TOWN.
I PREFER TO KEEP MY FEET ON SOLID GROUND--
--ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN I FALL FROM ANY HEIGHT.
DO NOT WORRY, I SHALL NOT DROP YOU.
SO--TELL ME, WHAT IS THE MATTER?
Sigh.
IT IS ILLYANA, STORM-- I WONDER IF MY DREAMS OF HER ARE NOT SOME FORM OF WARNING, THAT SHE IS IN DANGER.
A CRY FOR HELP.
AND IF THEY ARE, PETER...
...WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?
I DO NOT MEAN TO BE CRUEL, BUT AS FAR AS THE WORLD IS CONCERNED, WE X-MEN ARE DEAD.
BECAUSE OUR FOES BELIEVE THAT-- AS WELL AS OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY--
--WE HAVE AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE AT THEM WITHOUT FEAR OF IMPERILING THOSE WE CARE FOR.
CAST THAT ASIDE, AND ALL OUR WORK, OUR SACRIFICES...
...WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING-- DA, ORORO, I UNDERSTAND.
AS COMRADE LENIN TAUGHT, THE COMMUNITY-- OUR PURPOSE--
--MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE DESIRES OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
MY DREAMS PROBABLY MEAN NOTHING. ILLYANA IS PROBABLY FINE.
I JUST WISH...
...I KNEW FOR CERTAIN.

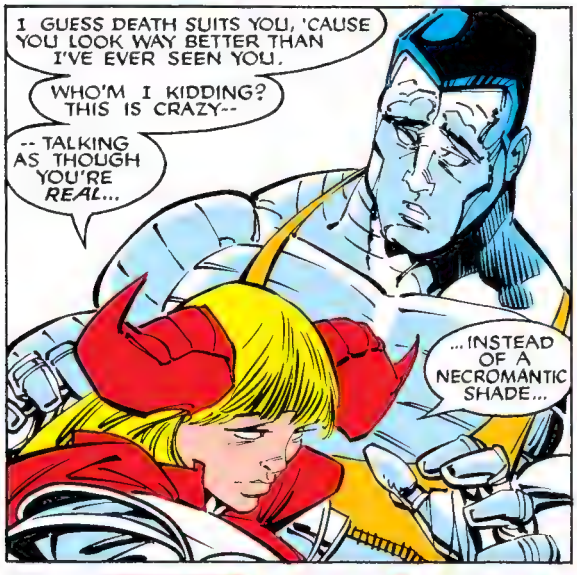

LATER...
...AFTER DINNER--
--A TRULY VALIANT CULINARY EFFORT ON ROGUE'S PART...
CRACK!
ANOTHER PLATE, WOLVERINE.
WE AIN'T GOT THAT MANY LEFT, Y'KNOW.
THERE'S ALWAYS PAPER.
PUT A SOCK IN IT, HAVOK.
JUST RELAX, PETEY--
--REMEMBER THE EXERCISES I'M TEACHING YOU--
--YOU STILL HAVE NERVES, SENSATION IN YOUR FINGERS--
--TRY TO FEEL WITH 'EM--
--FOCUS YOUR CONCENTRATION, REFINE YOUR MOTOR CONTROL...
YOU ASK ME...
I DIDN'T.
...I THINK IT'S PRETTY DARN SNEAKY FOR THE BIG GALOOT TO BE SO POWERFUL AND CLUMSY WE DON'T DARE LET HIM DO THE DISHES.
OR HOUSEWORK.
CATCH, DAZZLER!
THANKS, LONGSHOT.
BASIC BULL IN THE CHINA SHOP, THAT'S OUR COLOSSUS.
THE LUCKY DEVIL.
STORM, COULD YOU PLEASE MAKE THE RAIN A BIT MORE INTENSE FOR RINSING-- GREAT, THAT'S PERFECT.
DISHES ARE DONE, BOSS.
LOOK, ORORO...
...I KNOW, MOST OF THE TEAM, THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF FAMILY--
--OUT-SIDE OF EACH OTHER.
BUT I'VE GOT A MOM AND A SISTER AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT PETER'S GOING THROUGH.
I KNOW WHAT'S SENSIBLE AND RATIONAL AND NECESSARY...
...BUT I LIKE TO THINK I ALSO KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT.
ORORO, WE SHOULD LET HIM GO.

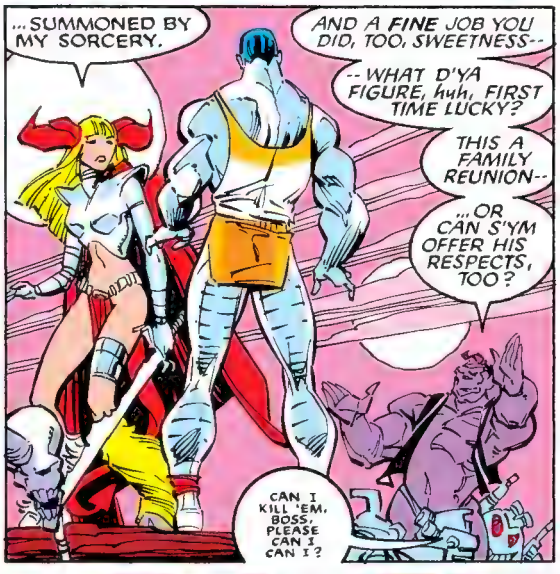

I SECOND THE MOTION.
HOW USEFUL IS HE TO THE TEAM IF, INSIDE, HE'S WORRYING ABOUT HIS SISTER?
MOREOVER, HE WOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THIS FIX IF HE HADN'T COME TO OUR RESCUE IN DALLAS.
WE OWE THE GUY, STORM.
ALEX, IT IS NOT--
eh??
GATEWAY?!
WHAT'S HE WANT?!
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS ANYONE'S, DARLIN', SINCE HE DON'T SPEAK.
HE IS POINTING AT ME!
'PEARS LIKE...
...HE WANTS YOU TO FOLLOW.
STORM--WHAT--?!
YOUR HEART LED YOU TO US IN OUR HOUR OF NEED, PETER.
PERHAPS THE MOMENT HAS COME TO TRUST IT AGAIN.
AND PLACE THE NEEDS OF THE ONE ABOVE THOSE OF THE MANY.
WHEN GATEWAY OPENS HIS TELE-PORTATIONAL PORTAL, COLOSSUS, STEP THROUGH.
AND WHEN YOU ARE READY, HE WILL BRING YOU HOME THE SAME WAY.
THE ANCIENT ABORIGINE SPINS HIS BULLROARER, FILLING THE NIGHT WITH ITS LOW, RESONANT THRUM-HUMM...
...AND, WHEN HIS BONFIRE BLAZES ITS BRIGHTEST, CASTING A MULTITUDE OF SPARKS TO THE HEAVENS...
ANYBODY WONDER...
FLASZK!
...HOW GATEWAY KNOWS WHERE TO SEND HIM?
SAME WAY HE DOES, SUGAR...
...WHEN HE SENDS US ON OUR MERRY WAY.
HE JUST--KNOWS.
BEST O' LUCK, PETEY!
HAVE NO FEAR, COMRADES...
...I'LL BE BACK!


ANOTHER PLACE.
IT'S CALLED LIMBO--
--AND IT EXISTS BEYOND THE NORMAL, RATIONAL STRICTURES OF SPACE AND TIME.
HERE, REALITY IS A MUTABLE CONCEPT, WHATEVER THE REALM'S RULER DESIRES.
UNFORTUNATELY, AT THE MOMENT, THERE'S A CIVIL WAR GOING ON, LED BY THE UPSTART DEMON S'YM AGAINST THE CURRENT SORCERESS SUPREME, THE DARKCHILDE ARCHIMAGE...
...ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA RASPUTIN.
SO DON'T KEEP US IN SUSPENSE, BIG BOSS...
...WHAT'S THE BRATBABE DOIN'?
WATCH THE MOUTH, SMILEYFACE.
MAGIK THERE SENT YOU BOYS TO LIMBO.
YOU SERVE S'YM NOW.
YOU SHOW SOME RESPECT--
--OR ELSE!
YESSIR! ANYTHING YOU SAY, SIR!
"IT'S A MAJOR SPELL," THE DEMON SAYS, HIS ROUGH VOICE TOUCHED WITH UNACCUSTOMED AWE...
"...AS BIG AN' BLACK AS THEY COME:
"...NECROMANCY--TO SUMMON THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE!"
FTS
ZASK!
BY ALL THE SPIRITS OF THE ABYSS...
BY HEARTBLOOD AND SOULFIRE...
...I SUMMON...
BUT-- BEFORE THE NAME CAN BE SPOKEN, THE DREAD POWERS INVOKED, THE SPELL COMPLETED...
...HE IS THERE!

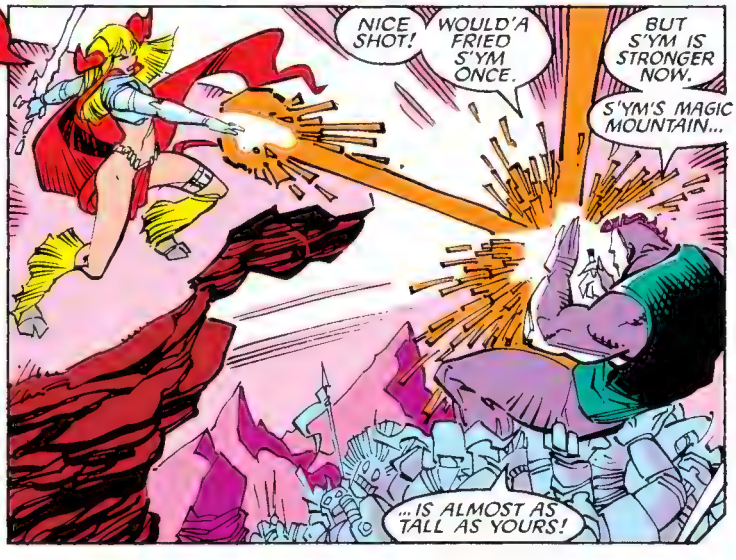

ILLYANA?!?
CAN THIS BE YOU, LITTLE SNOWFLAKE, HAVE YOU CHANGED SO MUCH?!
I WAS A FOOL TO COME.
I CAN DO NO GOOD HERE. SUCH A CREATURE IS BEYOND MY HELP.

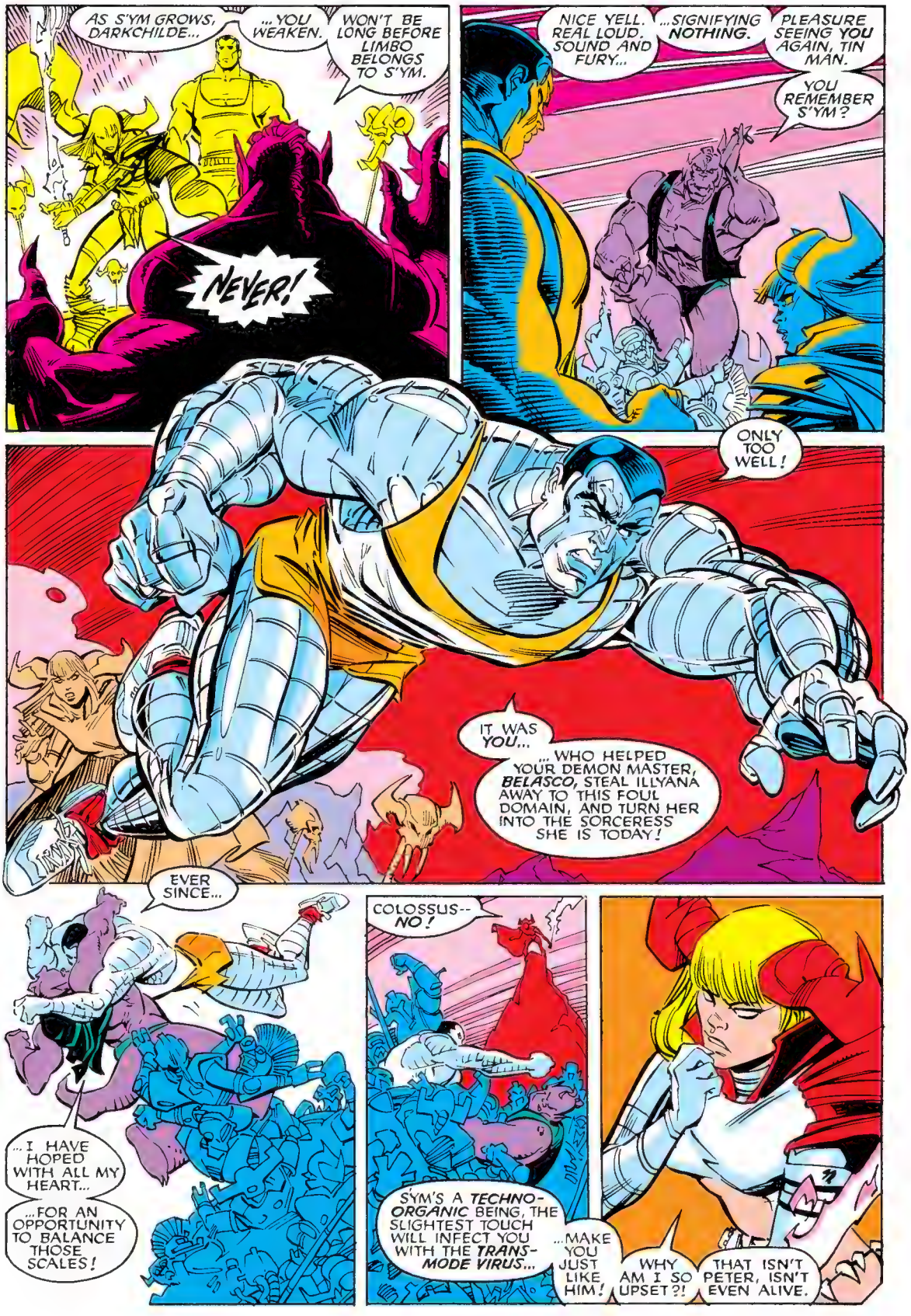
AND YET--
--WHO AM I TO CALL ANYONE--
..."CREATURE"?
SHE IS MY SISTER.
HIYA, BIG BRO'--
-- LONG TIME, NO SEE.

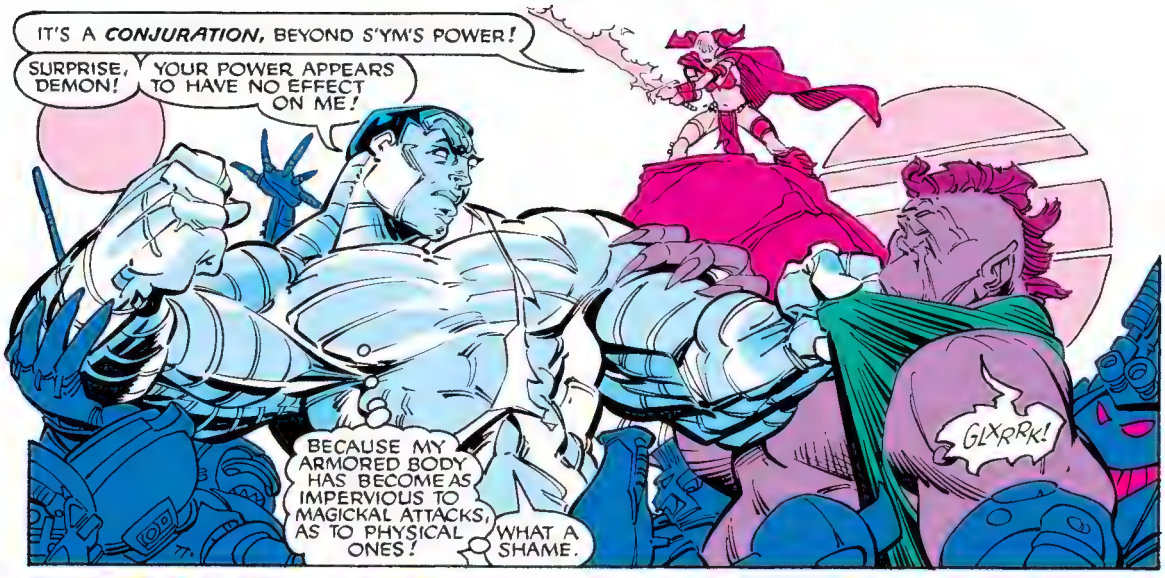

I GUESS DEATH SUITS YOU, 'CAUSE YOU LOOK WAY BETTER THAN I'VE EVER SEEN YOU.
WHO'M I KIDDING? THIS IS CRAZY--
-- TALKING AS THOUGH YOU'RE REAL...
...INSTEAD OF A NECROMANTIC SHADE...


...SUMMONED BY MY SORCERY.
AND A FINE JOB YOU DID, TOO, SWEETNESS--
-- WHAT D'YA FIGURE, huh, FIRST TIME LUCKY?
THIS A FAMILY REUNION--
...OR CAN S'YM OFFER HIS RESPECTS, TOO?
CAN I KILL 'EM, BOSS, PLEASE CAN I CAN I?

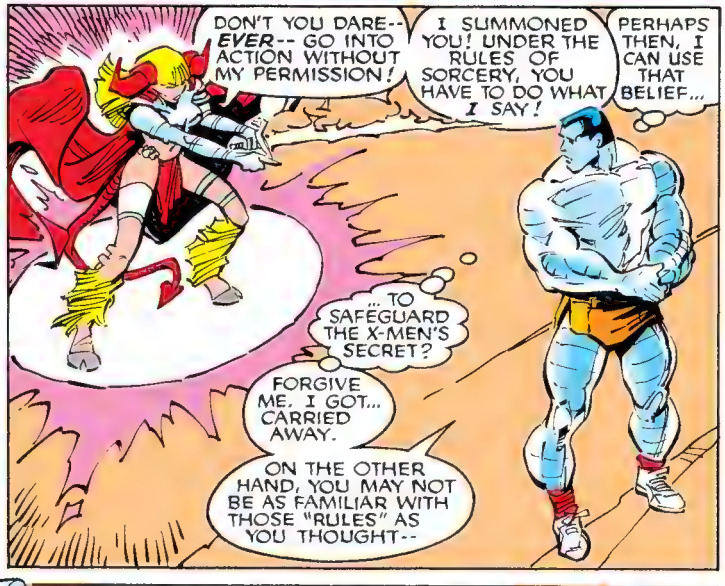
"OFFER" WHAT YOU LIKE, DEMON--
--YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU DESERVE!

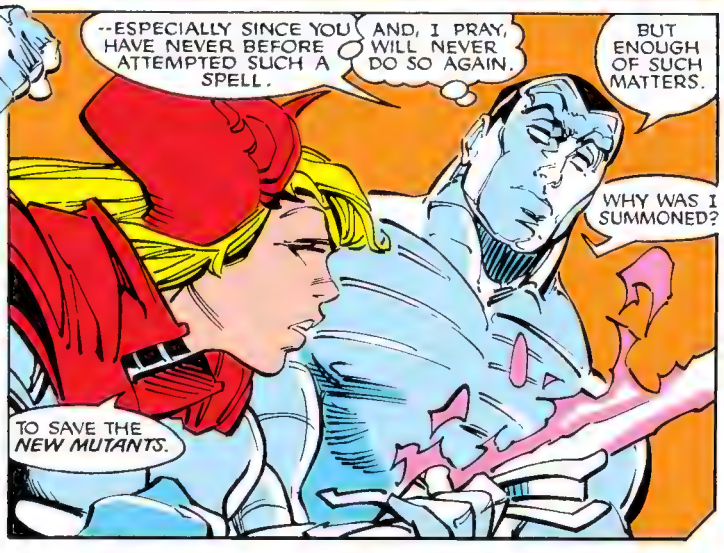

NICE SHOT!
WOULD'A FRIED S'YM ONCE.
BUT S'YM IS STRONGER NOW.
S'YM'S MAGIC MOUNTAIN...
...IS ALMOST AS TALL AS YOURS!


AS S'YM GROWS, DARKCHILDE...
...YOU WEAKEN.
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE LIMBO BELONGS TO S'YM.
NEVER!
NICE YELL. REAL LOUD. SOUND AND FURY...
...SIGNIFYING NOTHING.
PLEASURE SEEING YOU AGAIN, TIN MAN.
YOU REMEMBER S'YM?
ONLY TOO WELL!
IT WAS YOU...
...WHO HELPED YOUR DEMON MASTER, BELASCO, STEAL ILLYANA AWAY TO THIS FOUL DOMAIN, AND TURN HER INTO THE SORCERESS SHE IS TODAY!
EVER SINCE...
...I HAVE HOPED WITH ALL MY HEART...
...FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BALANCE THOSE SCALES!
COLOSSUS--NO!
S'YM'S A TECHNO-ORGANIC BEING, THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH WILL INFECT YOU WITH THE TRANS-MODE VIRUS...
...MAKE YOU JUST LIKE HIM!
WHY AM I SO UPSET?!
THAT ISN'T PETER, ISN'T EVEN ALIVE.


IT'S A CONJURATION, BEYOND S'YM'S POWER!
SURPRISE, DEMON!
YOUR POWER APPEARS TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME!
BECAUSE MY ARMORED BODY HAS BECOME AS IMPERVIOUS TO MAGICKAL ATTACKS, AS TO PHYSICAL ONES!
WHAT A SHAME.
GLXRRK!

POW!


DON'T YOU DARE-- EVER-- GO INTO ACTION WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!
I SUMMONED YOU! UNDER THE RULES OF SORCERY, YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY!
PERHAPS THEN, I CAN USE THAT BELIEF...
... TO SAFEGUARD THE X-MEN'S SECRET?
FORGIVE ME. I GOT... CARRIED AWAY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU MAY NOT BE AS FAMILIAR WITH THOSE "RULES" AS YOU THOUGHT--


--ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ATTEMPTED SUCH A SPELL.
AND, I PRAY, WILL NEVER DO SO AGAIN.
BUT ENOUGH OF SUCH MATTERS.
WHY WAS I SUMMONED?
TO SAVE THE NEW MUTANTS.

THERE'S A FLASH OF LIGHT AS ONE OF MAGIK'S TELEPORTER "STEPPING DISKS" MATERIALIZES BENEATH THEM...

...AND-- PRESTO-- THEY'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE IN HER ELDRITCH REALM.

IS THAT-- PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL?!

BARE BONES FRAMEWORK.

BUT IT'S GETTING MORE COMPLETE ALL THE TIME.

WE HAVE TILL THE REPLICATION'S FINISHED...

...TO SAVE THE KIDS.

FROM WHOM?

"LISTEN UP, I'LL TELL YOU.

"IT WAS LATE-- I WAS SLOGGING THROUGH A TERM PAPER ON MIKHAIL BULGAKOV'S OUTLAW CLASSIC, THE MASTER AND MARGARITA.

"I LIKED THE BOOK, I SIMPLY WASN'T IN THE MOOD FOR SCHOOLWORK.

"BEEN FEELING THAT WAY A LOT LATELY...

"...SINCE YOU...

"WELL, ANYWAY-- ALL OF A SUDDEN, COMPANY DROPPED IN, LITERALLY OUT OF NOWHERE--

"-- THREE CHARACTERS FROM THE NOVEL: AZAZELLO, BEHEMOTH AND KOROVIEV, COME TO LIFE!

"THEY WERE ON ME LIKE A SHOT.

"DID MY BEST TO FIGHT.

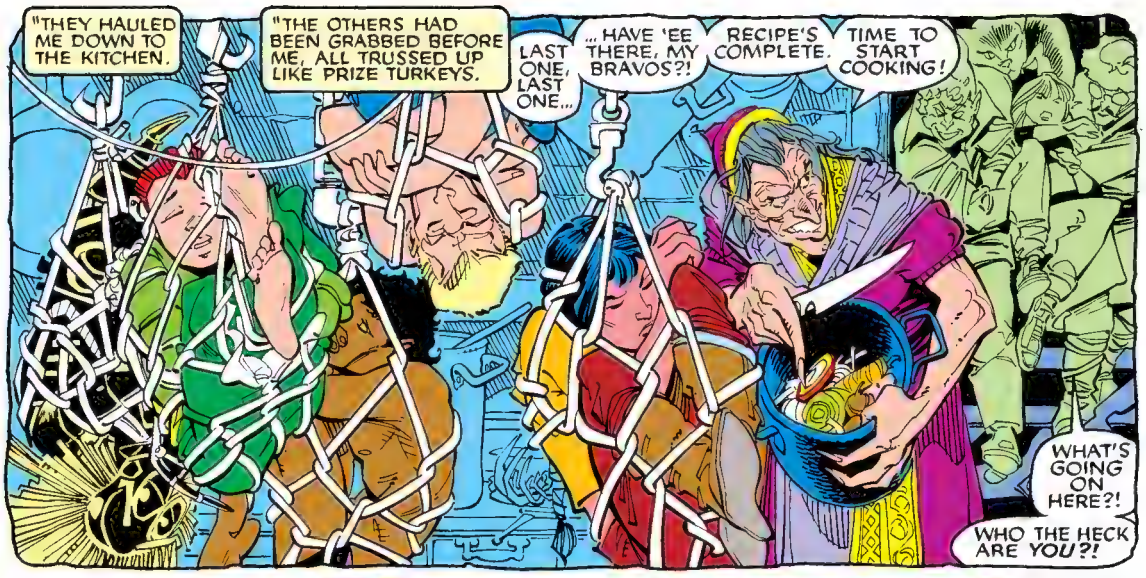
"THEY JUST LAUGHED.

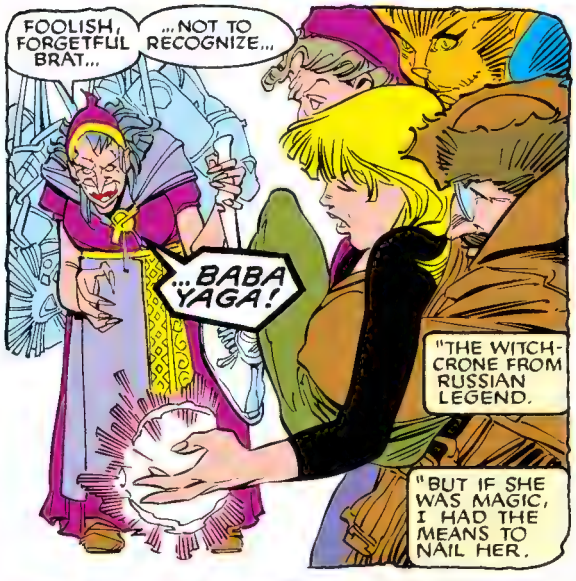
THEY WILL NOT LAUGH WHEN I AM DONE.

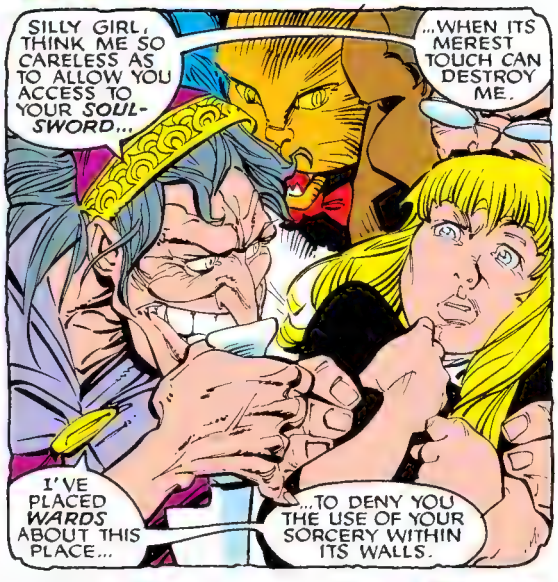
YOU MEAN THAT!

YOU'RE REALLY UPSET!!!

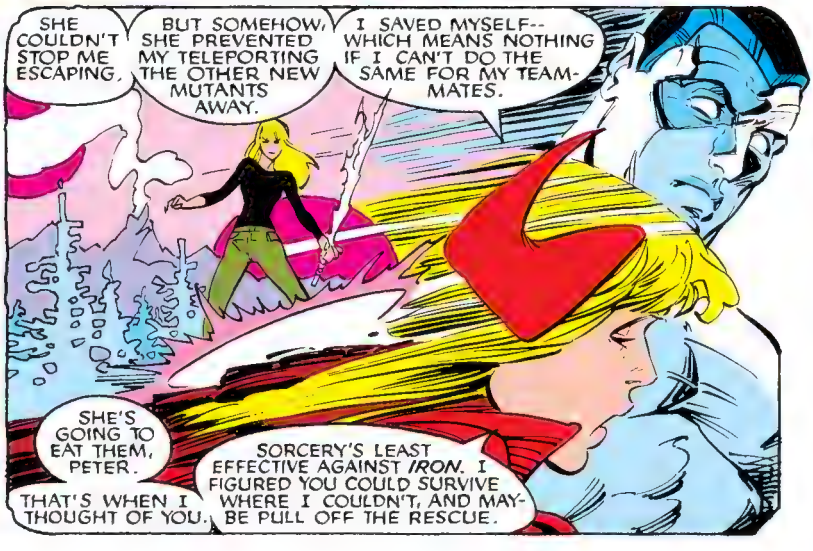
IF I AM THE ESSENCE OF YOUR BROTHER'S HEART AND SOUL-- FOR WHAT ELSE IS A SPIRIT, EVEN ONE SUMMONED BY THE FOULEST MEANS-- HOW CAN I RESPOND ANY OTHER WAY WHEN YOU SAY YOU ARE HARMED?

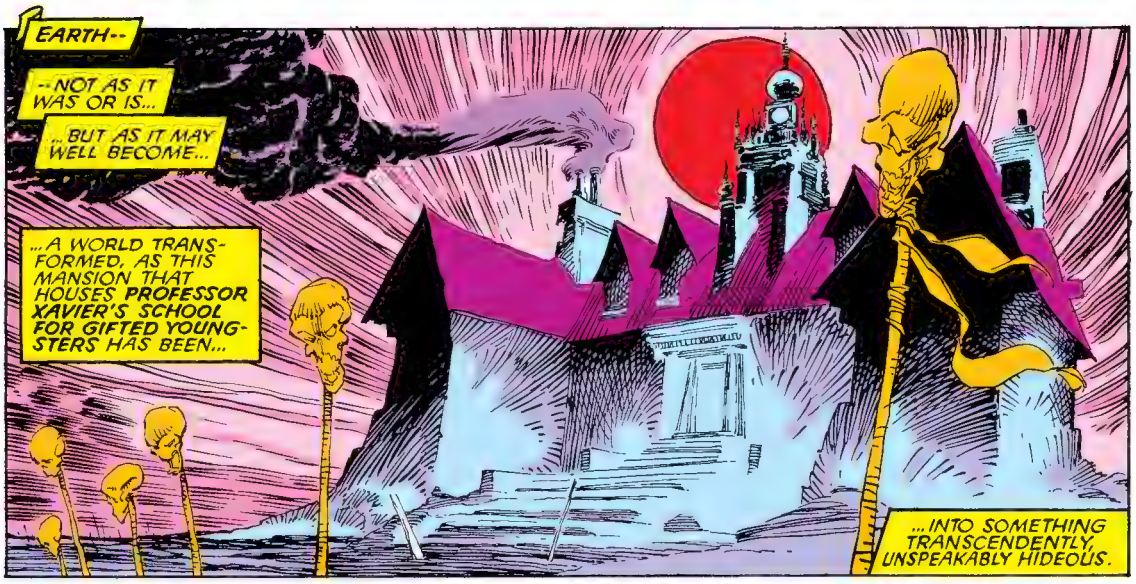

"THEY HAULED ME DOWN TO THE KITCHEN.
"THE OTHERS HAD BEEN GRABBED BEFORE ME, ALL TRUSSED UP LIKE PRIZE TURKEYS.
LAST ONE, LAST ONE...
...HAVE 'EE THERE, MY BRAVOS?!
RECIPE'S COMPLETE.
TIME TO START COOKING!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!

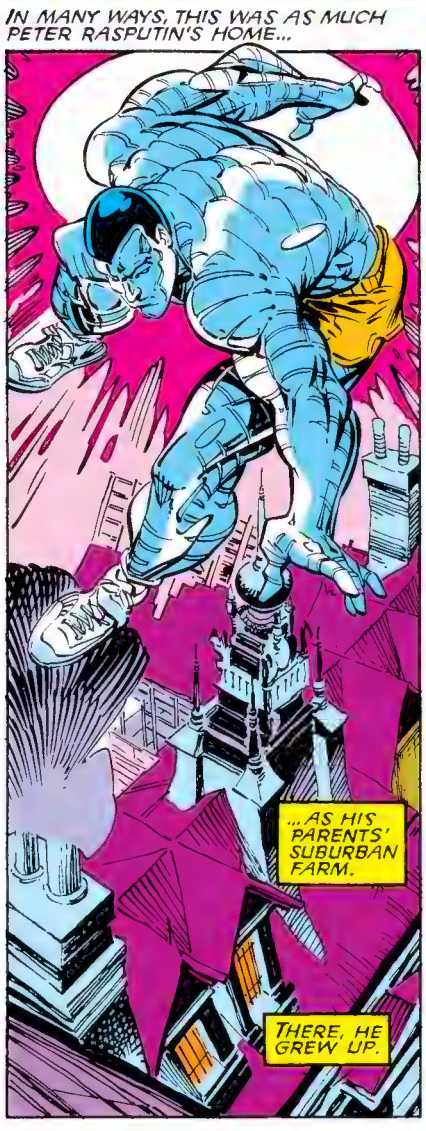

FOOLISH, FORGETFUL BRAT...
...NOT TO RECOGNIZE...
...BABA YAGA!
"THE WITCH-CRONE FROM RUSSIAN LEGEND.
"BUT IF SHE WAS MAGIC, I HAD THE MEANS TO NAIL HER.


SILLY GIRL, THINK ME SO CARELESS AS TO ALLOW YOU ACCESS TO YOUR SOUL-SWORD...
...WHEN ITS MEREST TOUCH CAN DESTROY ME.
I'VE PLACED WARDS ABOUT THIS PLACE...
...TO DENY YOU THE USE OF YOUR SORCERY WITHIN ITS WALLS.

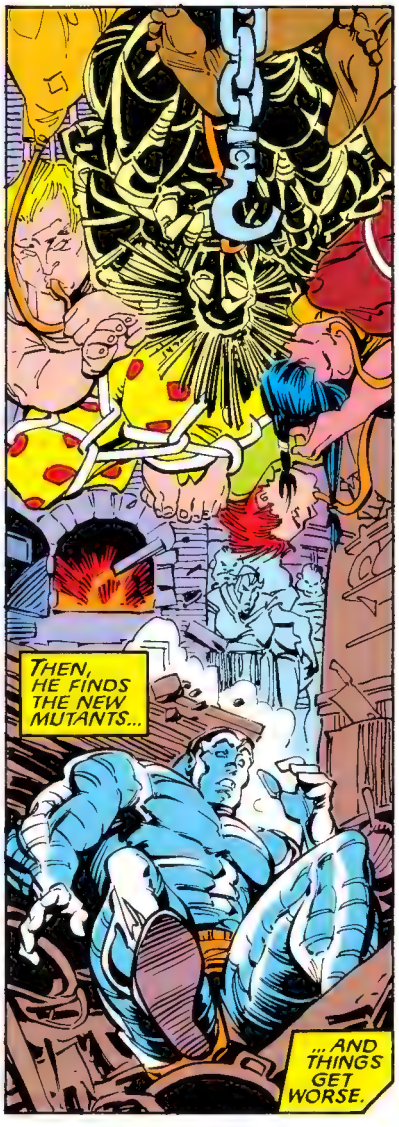
"FORTUNATELY...
"...TELE-PORTING IS MY MUTANT POWER.


SHE COULDN'T STOP ME ESCAPING.
BUT SOMEHOW, SHE PREVENTED MY TELEPORTING THE OTHER NEW MUTANTS AWAY.
I SAVED MYSELF--WHICH MEANS NOTHING IF I CAN'T DO THE SAME FOR MY TEAM-MATES.
SHE'S GOING TO EAT THEM, PETER.
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT OF YOU.
SORCERY'S LEAST EFFECTIVE AGAINST IRON. I FIGURED YOU COULD SURVIVE WHERE I COULDN'T, AND MAY-BE PULL OFF THE RESCUE.

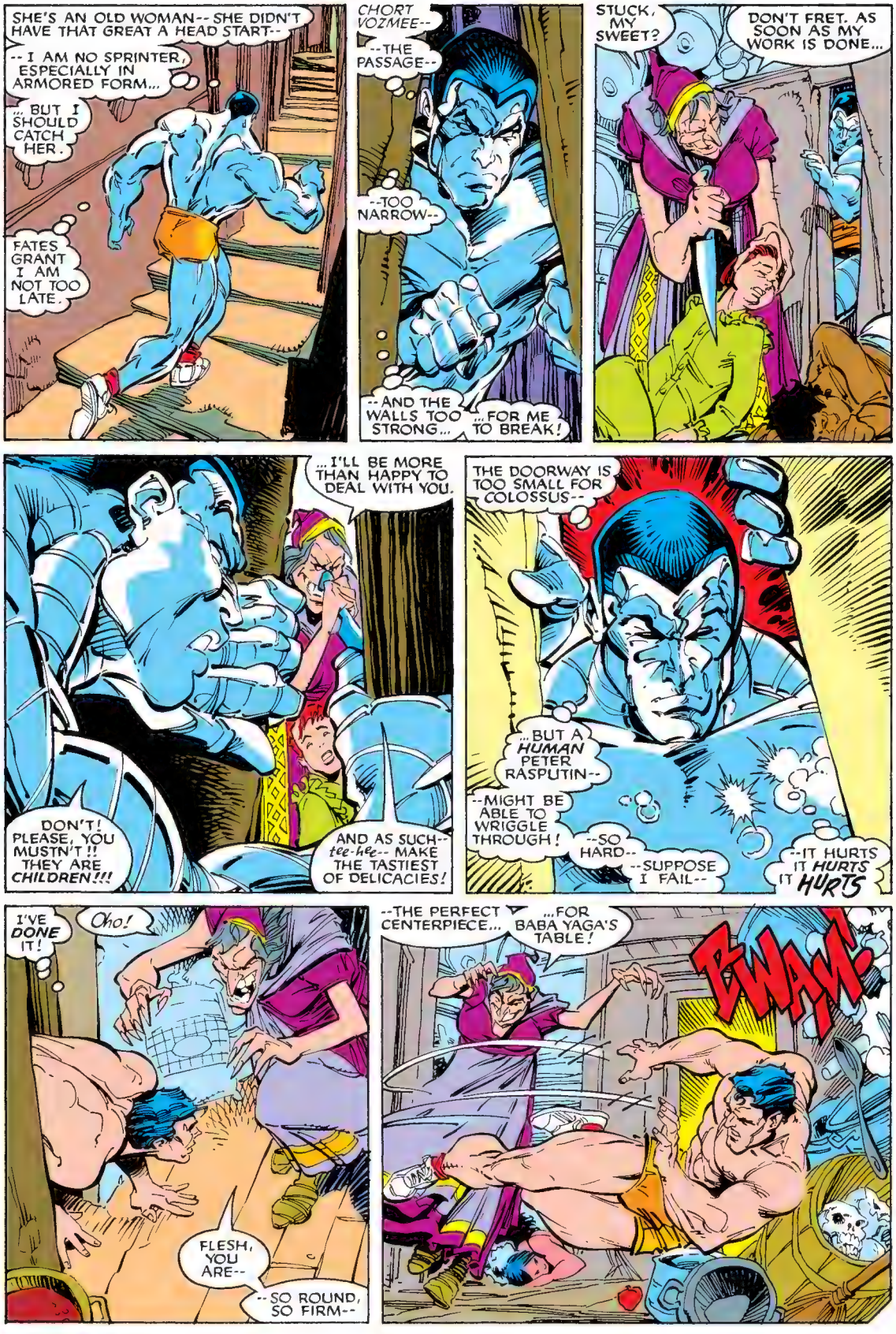

EARTH--
--NOT AS IT WAS OR IS...
...BUT AS IT MAY WELL BECOME...
...A WORLD TRANSFORMED, AS THIS MANSION THAT HOUSES PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS HAS BEEN...
...INTO SOMETHING TRANSCENDENTLY, UNSPEAKABLY HIDEOUS.

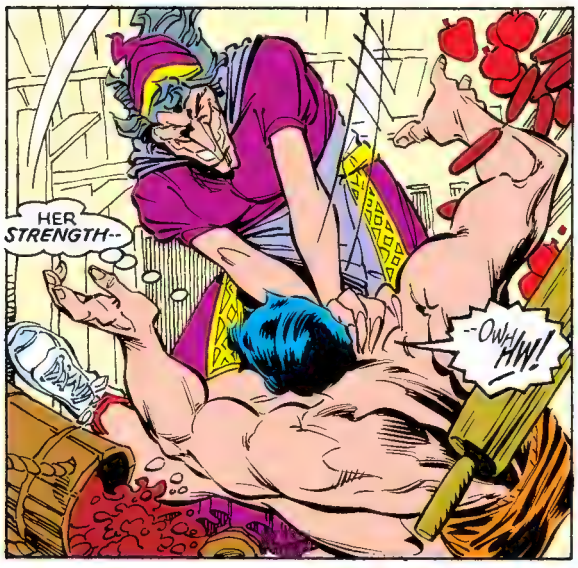

IN MANY WAYS, THIS WAS AS MUCH PETER RASPUTIN'S HOME...
...AS HIS PARENTS' SUBURBAN FARM.
THERE, HE GREW UP.

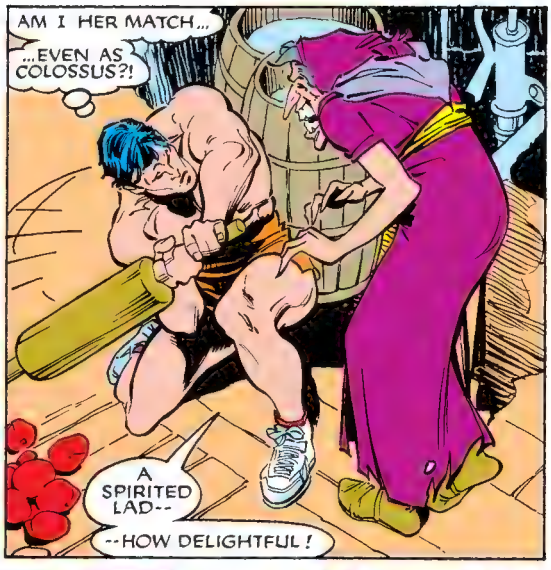
HERE, HE BECAME A MAN.
AND IT TEARS HIS HEART...
...TO SEE WHAT SORCERY HAS DONE TO IT.
SKROOM!

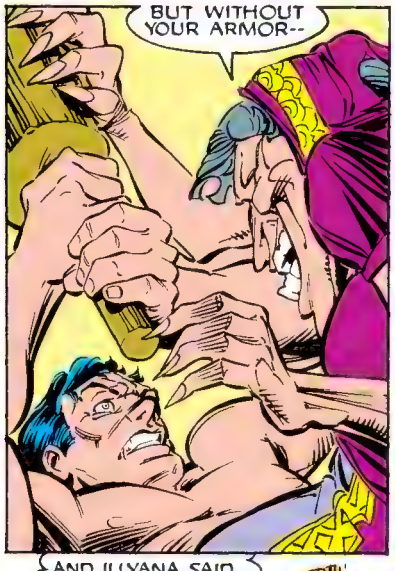

THEN, HE FINDS THE NEW MUTANTS...
...AND THINGS GET WORSE.

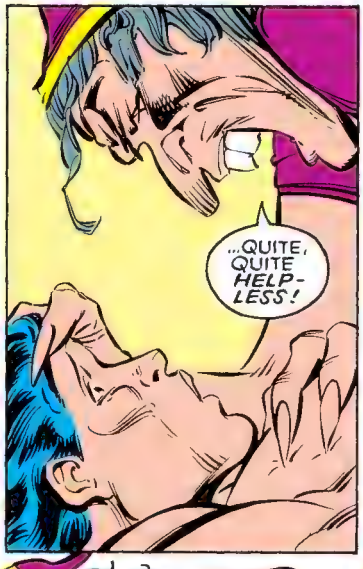
INTRUDER ha-HAH--
-- KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR...
... SENT TO THE RESCUE...
...SENT TO HIS DOOM!
TEAR HIM UP, MY PRETTIES...
...WE'LL CRACK HIS BONES...
...FOR APPETIZERS!
IN THE MEAN-WHILE...
... SINCE THE BABIES ARE FATTENED AND SEASONED...
... FOR THE SLAUGHTER...
...TIME I WAS ABOUT MY COOKING!
NO!
DON'T BE TOO LONG, DEARIES!
IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO EAT YOUR DINNER...
... WHILE IT'S HOT!
TONIGHT, OGRES--
--AND FOREVER AFTER--
--IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT--
KLONK
--YOU WILL GO HUNGRY!

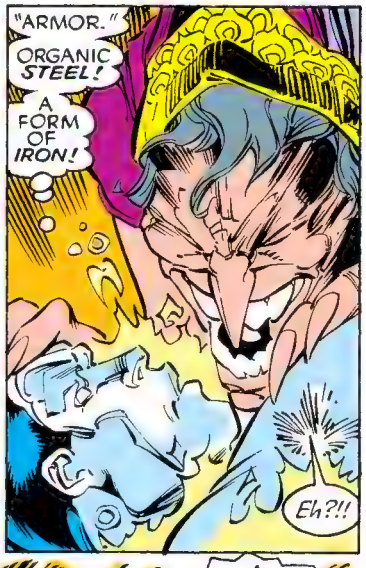

SHE'S AN OLD WOMAN-- SHE DIDN'T HAVE THAT GREAT A HEAD START--
-- I AM NO SPRINTER, ESPECIALLY IN ARMORED FORM...
... BUT I SHOULD CATCH HER.
FATES GRANT I AM NOT TOO LATE.
CHORT VOZMEE--
--THE PASSAGE--
--TOO NARROW--
-- AND THE WALLS TOO STRONG...
...FOR ME TO BREAK!
STUCK, MY SWEET?
DON'T FRET. AS SOON AS MY WORK IS DONE...
...I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DEAL WITH YOU.
DON'T! PLEASE, YOU MUSTN'T !! THEY ARE CHILDREN!!!
AND AS SUCH-- tee-hee-- MAKE THE TASTIEST OF DELICACIES!
THE DOORWAY IS TOO SMALL FOR COLOSSUS--
...BUT A HUMAN PETER RASPUTIN--
--MIGHT BE ABLE TO WRIGGLE THROUGH!
--SO HARD--
--SUPPOSE I FAIL--
--IT HURTS IT HURTS IT HURTS
I'VE DONE IT!
Oho!
FLESH, YOU ARE--
--SO ROUND, SO FIRM--
--THE PERFECT CENTERPIECE...
...FOR BABA YAGA'S TABLE!
BWAM!


HER STRENGTH--
--OWHW!


AM I HER MATCH...
...EVEN AS COLOSSUS?!
A SPIRITED LAD--
--HOW DELIGHTFUL!

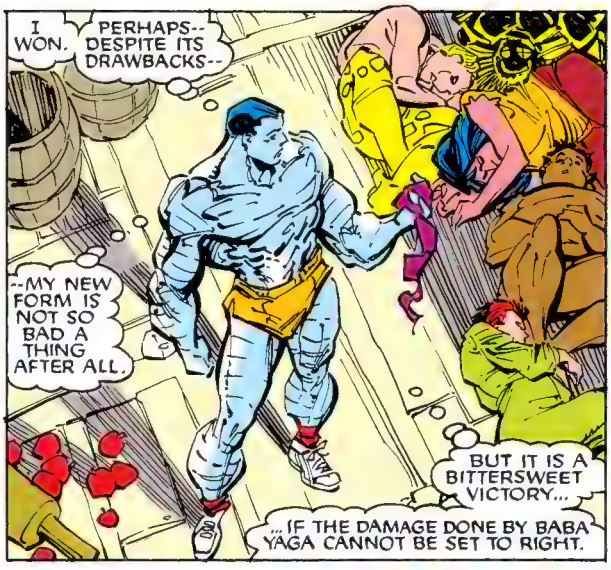

BUT WITHOUT YOUR ARMOR--


...QUITE, QUITE HELP-LESS!

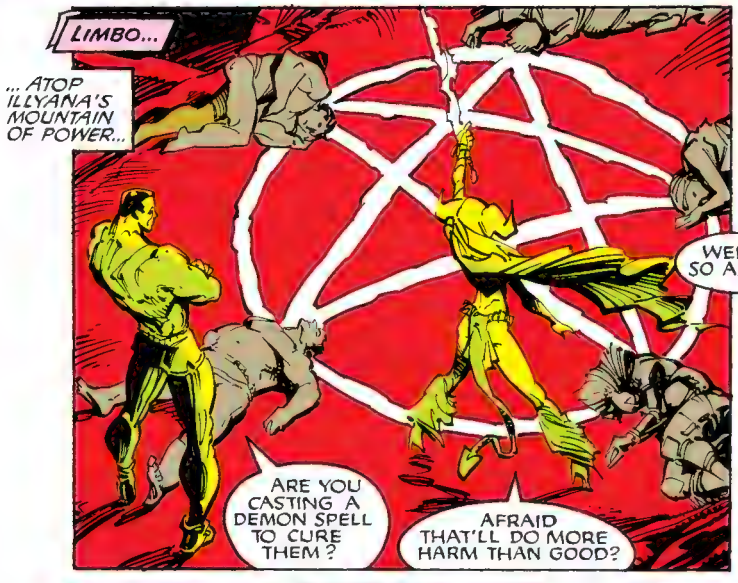

"ARMOR."
ORGANIC STEEL!
A FORM OF IRON!
Eh?!!

AND ILLYANA SAID...
...SORCERY AND DEMONS...
...ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO IRON!
NO NO NO AHEEEE

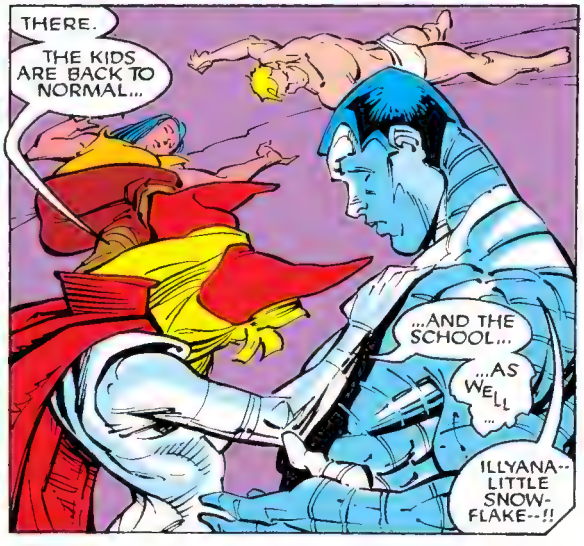
SH
KOW!


I WON.
PERHAPS-- DESPITE ITS DRAWBACKS--
--MY NEW FORM IS NOT SO BAD A THING AFTER ALL.
BUT IT IS A BITTERSWEET VICTORY...
...IF THE DAMAGE DONE BY BABA YAGA CANNOT BE SET TO RIGHT.

AND, ALMOST ON CUE...
POOF!


LIMBO...
... ATOP ILLYANA'S MOUNTAIN OF POWER...
WELL, SO AM I.
ARE YOU CASTING A DEMON SPELL TO CURE THEM?
AFRAID THAT'LL DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD?

BUT I AM WHAT I AM.
I HAVE THE SKILL...
... I HAVE THE POWER--
--AND THERE'S A NEED...
...SO I'LL DO WHAT I MUST...
...AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!


THERE.
THE KIDS ARE BACK TO NORMAL...
...AND THE SCHOOL...
...AS WELL...
ILLYANA-- LITTLE SNOW-FLAKE--!!

Bullpen Bulletins

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I MUST EITHER SUPPORT A DOOMED REVOLT WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE SLAUGHTER OF MILLIONS OF MY BROTHERS — OR DO NOTHING AND BE BRANDED A TRAITOR TO MY RACE AND TO FREEDOM EVERYWHERE!"

— T'CHALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER, BLACK PANTHER #1

ITEM: A hearty welcome back goes to Hardhitting *Harry Candelario* of our frenetic photostat department, who just got back from the U.S. Marine Corps! Harry took seven months off to attend boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then communications school at 29 Palms, California. He now has a Com Center Man Billet, which means he's learned the basics about the technology and techniques of military communications. The sturdy Mr. C will now spend one weekend a month and two full weeks of every year serving the Marines — the rest of the time he'll be at mighty Marvel, shooting stats, and keeping the junior bullpenners in line! Way to hang tough, Harry!

ITEM: We have several new additions to the ever-changing ranks of the mighty Marvel editorial elite. First, there's *A.A. Perry*, who's taking *David Wohl's* place in the Special Projects Department, assisting *Craig Anderson*. Andrew's got a B.A. in Literature and Film from Antioch College and put in a stint here as a college intern prior to his ascension into the rank and file. (Diligent David has moved across the hall to assume the duties of the departing *Joanne Spaldo* as assistant editor to *Howard Mackie* on the New Universe line.) Then there's *Kelly Corvese*, who's signed on as an Editorial Assistant, aiding Senior Editorial Secretary *Sue Flaxman* and inputting almost all of our lifting letters pages into the master computer system. Kelly's a graduate of the Swedish Institute and is a part time masseur. He hopes to someday use those same hands to pencil comics. And last but not least, there's *Barbara Arnstein*, who's come aboard as Editorial Secretary to Executive Ed *Mark Gruenwald*. Barbara's led a checkered career in the print and electronic media, and moonlights as a freelance writer for various New York area newspapers and magazines. Welcome to the creative chaos that is Marvel, people!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The most exciting television event of the decade is coming to NBC sometime this May! At last! Due to popular demand THE INCREDIBLE HULK (starring Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno) will be returning to the airways in a special two hour movie (proudly produced by those fabulous folks at New World Entertainment)!

And pay attention to this! The movie will also feature THE MIGHTY THOR! That's right! Good ol' Goldilocks will be making his very first live-action appearance on network television. Rumor has it that this movie may even help launch a brand-new weekly THOR television series if enough people watch it and call their local television stations to rave about it! (Take the hint, will you?)

Needless to say, your ever-batty Bullpen is real excited by the thought of seeing the Mighty Thor battle The Incredible Hulk on national TV. It's bound to be the greatest battle the television world has seen since Leonard took on Hagler, Holmes challenged Tyson and Sledge Hammer lost to Cosby. Miss it not!

Pro File: PAT REDDING

Assistant Editor on: My title is "managing editor," which may be freely interpreted. I work on THE 'NAM, SEMPER FI, STEELTOWN ROCKERS, CONAN SAGA, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and the 'NAM MAGAZINE, A SAILOR'S STORY, SHADOW graphic novel, etc.

Marvel freelance credits (past): As an inker, some Thundercats covers (over Bob Camp), some John Buscema Conan stuff, over June Brigman on Young Astronauts, which never saw print, a Steve Ditko *What If* (stay tuned!) and lots more!

Marvel freelance credits (present): Nothing at present, for Marvel, but I'm open for suggestions (hint, hint).

My hobbies are: Playing guitar in my band, the Thugs, but that's more than just a hobby. The rest of them won't be discussed here.

The single work of which I am most proud is: The Thugs backdrop: a prototypical Thug surfing on an iron board on spectacularly rendered waves. It's on black imitation velvet and is satisfyingly garish.

My pet peeves are: People who don't pay attention to things that *matter*.

My place of birth is: Washington, Dee Cee, our nation's capital.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: To be decided individually by others.

My oddest habit is: None of your business.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Since Lee Marvin died, it would definitely have to be Tura Satana. Mark Chiarello says "Jack Elam."

The reason I got into comics was: Larry Hama asked me, and I said "Why not!?"

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Never going to be a good golfer.

My favorite performers are: All Elvis impersonators, Tesco Vee, Handsome Dick Manitoba, Bam Bam Bigelow, to name a few.

The last good book I read was: "The Killer Inside Me," by Jim Thompson.

The last good movie I saw was: "Ironweed."

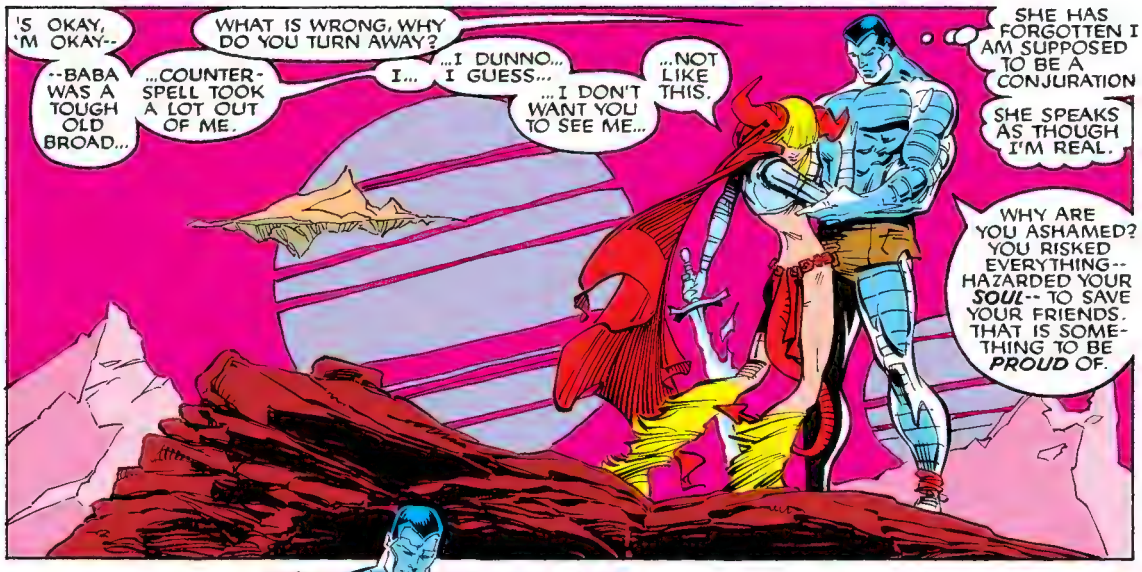
The biggest influences on my work include: As an editor, Larry Hama. As an inker, Wally Wood, Noel Sickles, Milt Caniff, Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Michael Golden, Bob Camp.

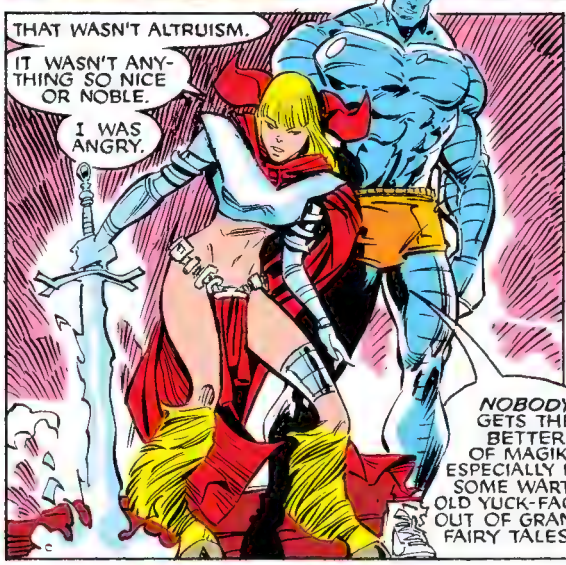
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Not to be taken for granted.

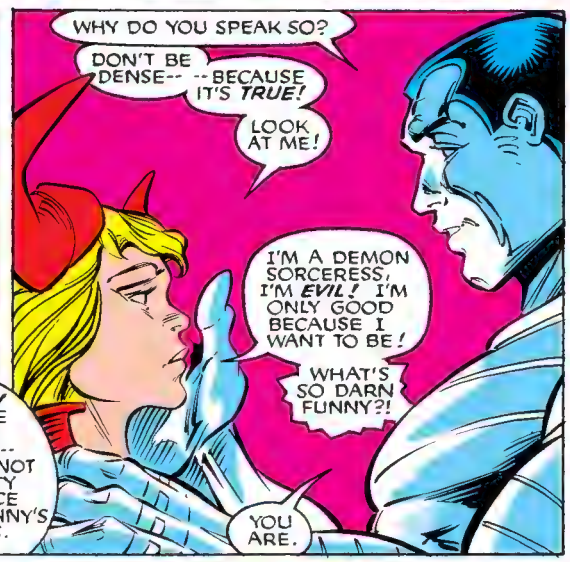
The worst part of my job is: That I'm not officially a full-fledged editor.

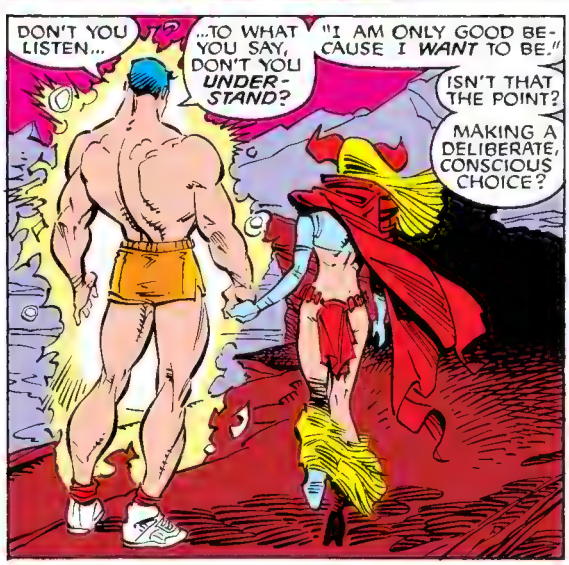
When nobody's looking I like to: Look at *them*.

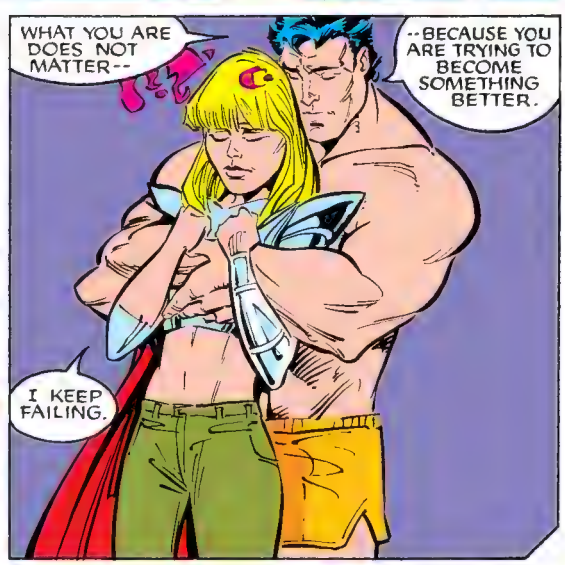
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I just *talk* that way — if I wasn't a champ speller and a competent grammarian with a pragmatic vocabulary, then I wouldn't be editing!

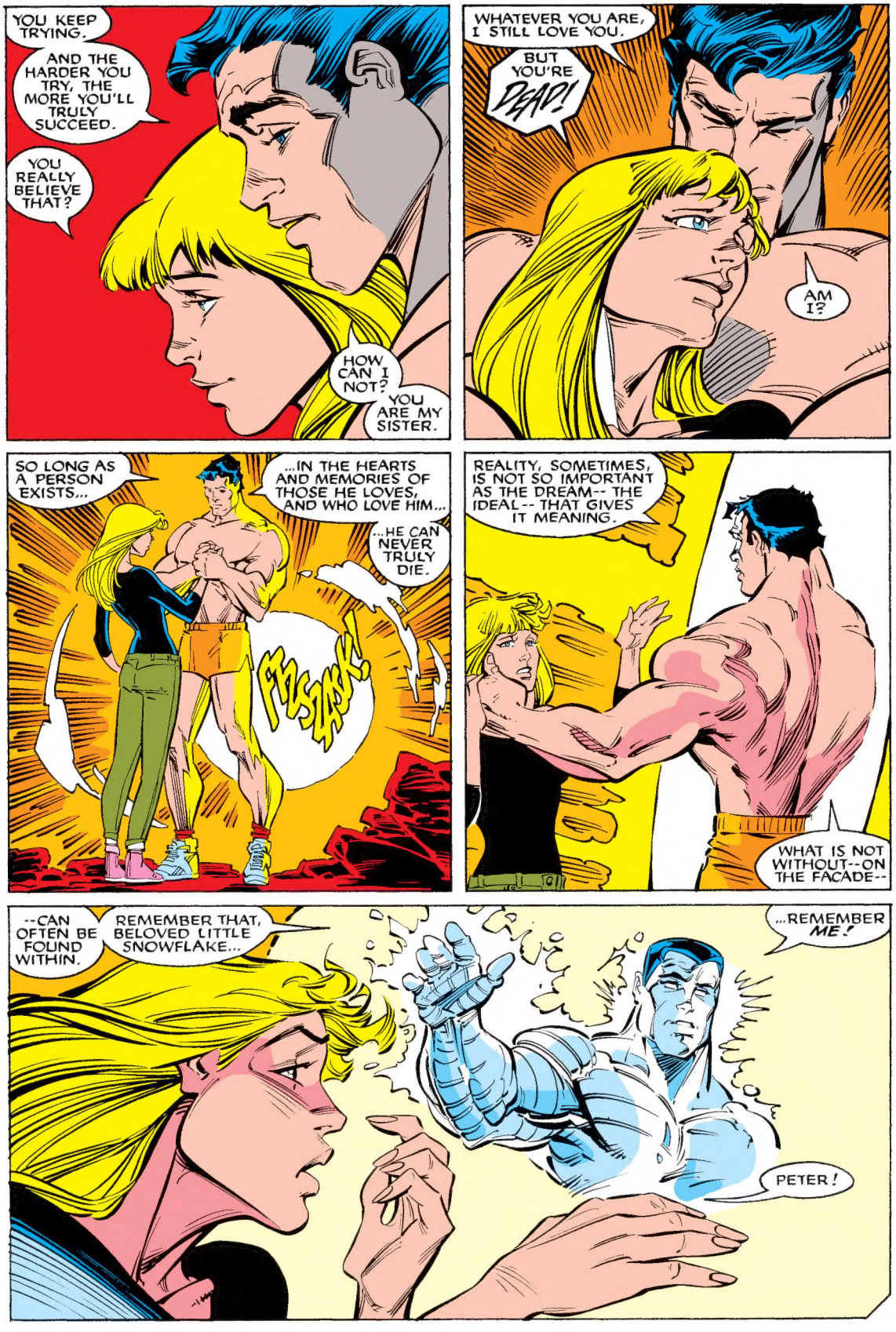

'S OKAY, 'M OKAY--
--BABA WAS A TOUGH OLD BROAD...
WHAT IS WRONG, WHY DO YOU TURN AWAY?
...COUNTER-SPELL TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME.
I...
...I DUNNO... I GUESS...
...I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME...
...NOT LIKE THIS.
SHE HAS FORGOTTEN I AM SUPPOSED TO BE A CONJURATION
SHE SPEAKS AS THOUGH I'M REAL.
WHY ARE YOU ASHAMED? YOU RISKED EVERYTHING--HAZARDED YOUR SOUL-- TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS. THAT IS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.

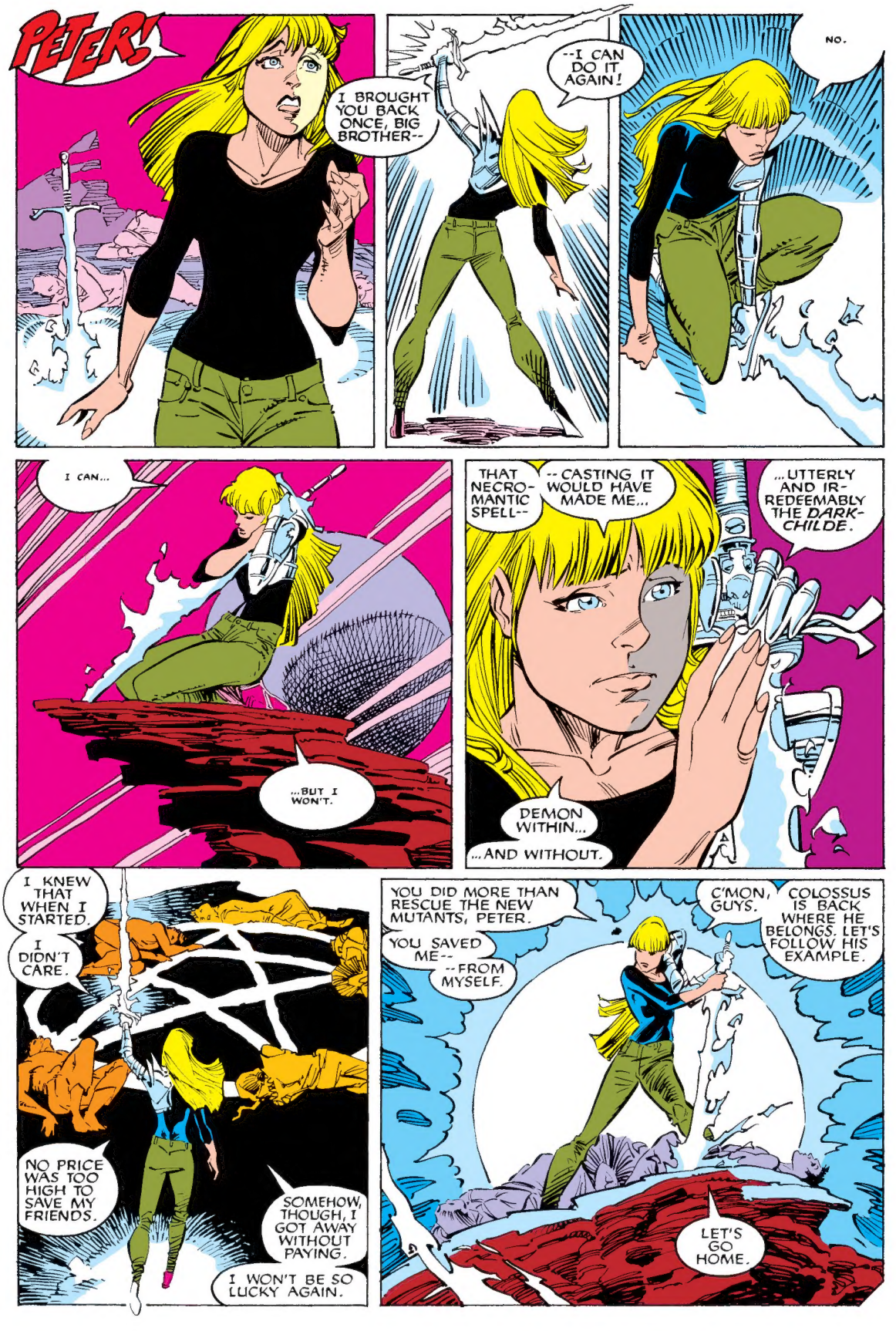

THAT WASN'T ALTRUISM.
IT WASN'T ANYTHING SO NICE OR NOBLE.
I WAS ANGRY.
NOBODY GETS THE BETTER OF MAGIK--ESPECIALLY NOT SOME WARTY OLD YUCK-FACE OUT OF GRANNY'S FAIRY TALES.

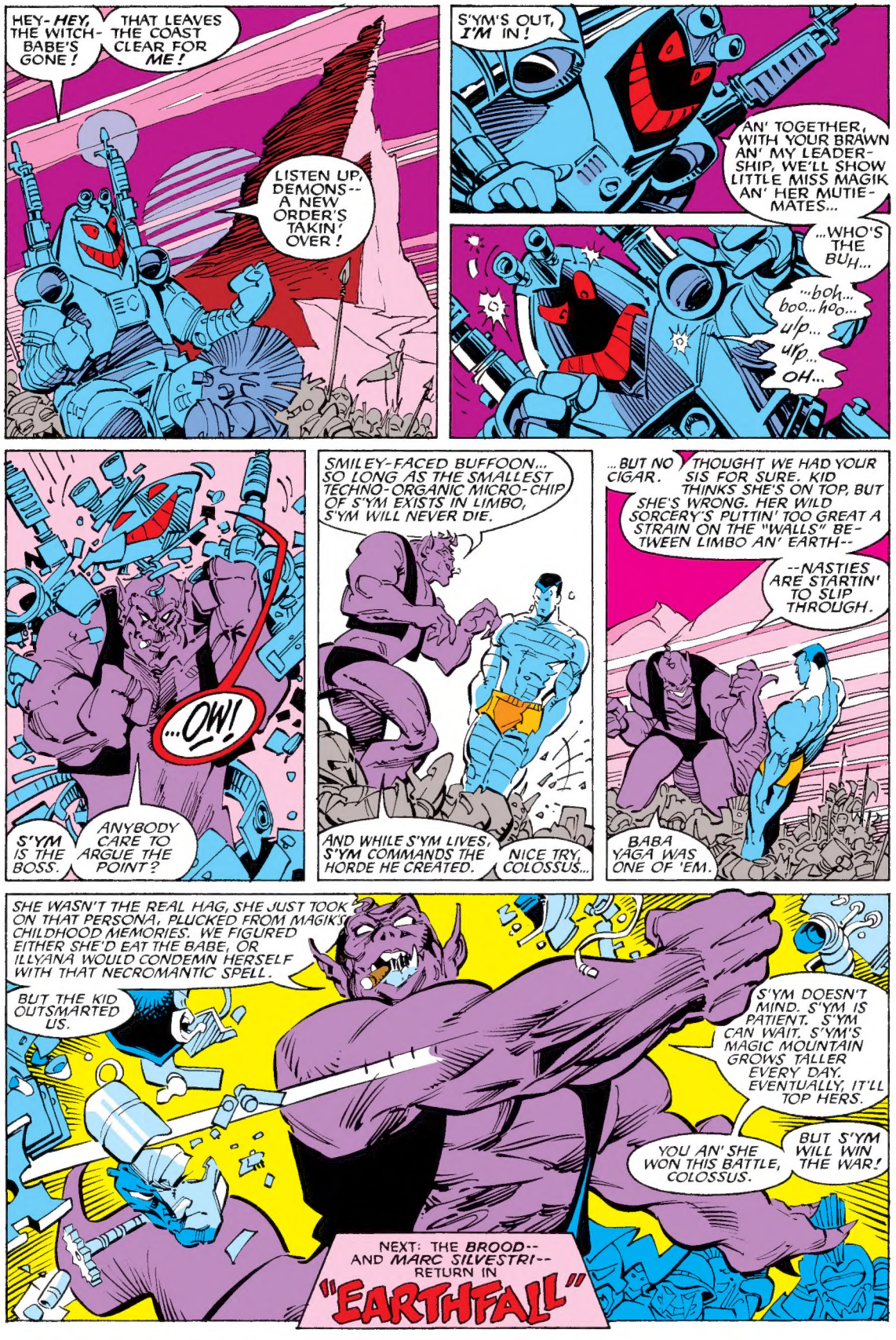

WHY DO YOU SPEAK SO?
DON'T BE DENSE--
--BECAUSE IT'S TRUE!
LOOK AT ME!
I'M A DEMON SORCERESS, I'M EVIL! I'M ONLY GOOD BECAUSE I WANT TO BE!
WHAT'S SO DARN FUNNY?!
YOU ARE.


DON'T YOU LISTEN...
...TO WHAT YOU SAY, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
"I AM ONLY GOOD BECAUSE I WANT TO BE."
ISN'T THAT THE POINT?
MAKING A DELIBERATE, CONSCIOUS CHOICE?


WHAT YOU ARE DOES NOT MATTER--
--BECAUSE YOU ARE TRYING TO BECOME SOMETHING BETTER.
I KEEP FAILING.


YOU KEEP TRYING.
AND THE HARDER YOU TRY, THE MORE YOU'LL TRULY SUCCEED.
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
HOW CAN I NOT?
YOU ARE MY SISTER.
WHATEVER YOU ARE, I STILL LOVE YOU.
BUT YOU'RE DEAD!
AM I?
SO LONG AS A PERSON EXISTS...
...IN THE HEARTS AND MEMORIES OF THOSE HE LOVES, AND WHO LOVE HIM...
...HE CAN NEVER TRULY DIE.
FZZZZZAPP!
REALITY, SOMETIMES, IS NOT SO IMPORTANT AS THE DREAM-- THE IDEAL-- THAT GIVES IT MEANING.
WHAT IS NOT WITHOUT--ON THE FACADE--
--CAN OFTEN BE FOUND WITHIN.
REMEMBER THAT, BELOVED LITTLE SNOWFLAKE...
...REMEMBER ME!
PETER!


PETER!
I BROUGHT YOU BACK ONCE, BIG BROTHER--
--I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
NO.
I CAN...
...BUT I WON'T.
THAT NECRO-MANTIC SPELL--
--CASTING IT WOULD HAVE MADE ME...
...UTTERLY AND IR-REDEEMABLY THE DARK-CHILDE.
DEMON WITHIN...
...AND WITHOUT.
I KNEW THAT WHEN I STARTED.
I DIDN'T CARE.
NO PRICE WAS TOO HIGH TO SAVE MY FRIENDS.
SOMEHOW, THOUGH, I GOT AWAY WITHOUT PAYING.
I WON'T BE SO LUCKY AGAIN.
YOU DID MORE THAN RESCUE THE NEW MUTANTS, PETER.
YOU SAVED ME--
--FROM MYSELF.
C'MON, GUYS.
COLOSSUS IS BACK WHERE HE BELONGS. LET'S FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.
LET'S GO HOME.


HEY-HEY, THE WITCH-BABE'S GONE!
THAT LEAVES THE COAST CLEAR FOR ME!
LISTEN UP, DEMONS-- A NEW ORDER'S TAKIN' OVER!
S'YM'S OUT, I'M IN!
AN' TOGETHER, WITH YOUR BRAWN AN' MY LEADERSHIP, WE'LL SHOW LITTLE MISS MAGIK AN' HER MUTIE-MATES...
...WHO'S THE BUH...
...boh... boo... hoo... ulp... urp... OH...
...OW!
S'YM IS THE BOSS.
ANYBODY CARE TO ARGUE THE POINT?
SMILEY-FACED BUFFOON... SO LONG AS THE SMALLEST TECHNO-ORGANIC MICRO-CHIP OF S'YM EXISTS IN LIMBO, S'YM WILL NEVER DIE.
AND WHILE S'YM LIVES, S'YM COMMANDS THE HORDE HE CREATED.
NICE TRY, COLOSSUS...
...BUT NO CIGAR.
THOUGHT WE HAD YOUR SIS FOR SURE. KID THINKS SHE'S ON TOP, BUT SHE'S WRONG. HER WILD SORCERY'S PUTTIN' TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON THE "WALLS" BETWEEN LIMBO AN' EARTH--
--NASTIES ARE STARTIN' TO SLIP THROUGH.
BABA YAGA WAS ONE OF 'EM.
SHE WASN'T THE REAL HAG, SHE JUST TOOK ON THAT PERSONA, PLUCKED FROM MAGIK'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES. WE FIGURED EITHER SHE'D EAT THE BABE, OR ILLYANA WOULD CONDEMN HERSELF WITH THAT NECROMANTIC SPELL.
BUT THE KID OUTSMARTED US.
S'YM DOESN'T MIND. S'YM IS PATIENT. S'YM CAN WAIT. S'YM'S MAGIC MOUNTAIN GROWS TALLER EVERY DAY. EVENTUALLY, IT'LL TOP HERS.
YOU AN' SHE WON THIS BATTLE, COLOSSUS.
BUT S'YM WILL WIN THE WAR!
NEXT: THE BROOD-- AND MARC SILVESTRI-- RETURN IN
"EARTHFALL"

MINUTEMEN

Sy13nt
Bob